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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of the much criticized "Emergency Regulations" of 1945, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Hebrew with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on the pages in the foreign edition.

AFTER LONG-AWAITED CEASE-FIRE

Decision on Unity Prevails

A cease-fire between the warring Palestinian factions in north Lebanon started at 6:00 pm, November 9, after an agreement that fighting should cease immediately earlier in the day. The cease-fire followed a week of shelling and destruction of the two Palestinian camps of Nahr al-Bared and Baddawi and the Lebanese town of Tripoli. Thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese were killed or wounded when the Syrian-backed Fatah dissidents and Syrian-affiliated organisations within the PLO escalated their attacks on forces loyal to PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat. Reports from the region were contradicatory at times, and there were few independent journalists in the battle zone.

The latest attack, which started at the end of October, intensified, November 5, with the indiscriminate shelling of Nahr al-Bared camp. After two days of pounding by heavy artillery and rockets, the camp was totally destroyed. Reports spoke of 400 dead and almost 1000 injured. Camp residents were forced into neighbouring mountains by the fighting.

Forces under the direct command of Yasir Arafat evacuated their positions in Nahr al-Bared, November 6, to Baddawi and Tripoli.

Oil storage tanks in the area were hit during the clashes and blazed out of control for several days.

The first two days of fighting concentrated on Nahr al-Bared camp, which led to its seige by the attackers from three sides, leaving an outlet for Arafat's forces to move towards Baddawi.

After official announcements that Arafat and his top aides were no longer in the camp, the Fatah dissidents moved in and took over remaining positions.

Later attacking forces moved towards Baddawi camp, shelling it and the outskirts of Tripoli. As the Baddawi seige continued, there were reports from Tripoli that Arafat's forces were reinforcing positions in the northern suburbs with heavy artillery and mortars.

The shelling continued on November 7, 8 and 9 against the new fortifications of the forces under Arafat's command in Baddawi camp and in Tripoli. Due to its intensity, foreign reporters and observers speculated that Baddawi and Tripoli, described as Arafat's last strongholds, were about to fall to the dissidents, led by former Fatah military commander Abu Musa. Casualty figures spoke of thousands killed and wounded as the battle continued.

Baddawi was completely surrounded, November 8, when Abu Musa's followers were assured that Arafat had taken a new command position in Tripoli.

Despite the non-stop battles, both sides were reporting willingness for a cease-fire. Abu Musa announced as a condition Arafat's departure from Tripoli. Arafat rejected any conditions on a cease-fire but announced interest in a cease-fire and dialogue to end the crisis.

Foreign journalists reported, November 9, a meeting be-

continued on page 13.

STOP PRESS

US Planes Shot At

Syrian surface-to-air missiles were fired at four US airplanes, November 10, forcing the F-14 and F-15 planes back to their carriers, according to the BBC. The planes were flying over Syrian-held areas of South Lebanon.

The White House confirmed the report. A spokesman said the American planes were "simply carrying out reconaissance flights." There were no reports of damage.

IN THIS ISSUE

US and Israeli threats to Syria p.2
Curfews on and off in West Bank p.3
Blast in Tyre. p.4
US Palestinians back Arafat. p.5
Al-Thowri village. p.7
Pottery in Palestine . . . . . pp.8&9
Copts in Jerusalem. p.10
West Bank reactions to Tripoli. p.13
The new community colleges. p.16

Ansar Prisoners Killed

Six prisoners were killed, November 4, at Ansar detention camp, South Lebanon, when the route of an escape-tunnel fell in under the weight of a bulldozer working in the area. Two prisoners were wounded in a second tunnel that was discovered later.

The bulldozers were occupied in earthmoving in the new section of Ansar camp where winter construction was completed about two weeks ago. Suddenly the ground opened under the tracks of one of the bulldozers and it fell into the trench, crushing to death six prisoners who were busy digging at the time.

After the discovery of the tunnel, special crews were brought to the site. They surveyed the camp and discovered more tunnels. In one of them, two prisoners were hiding. They refused to respond to the calls of the Israeli troops to come out. The soldiers opened fire, and the two were wounded.

The Israeli Army established an investigative commission to look into the case. It will try to discover how the prisoners managed to dig tunnels in the new camp, in which advanced precautions were taken to prevent such work. Prisoners' huts and the camp yard are covered with concrete. (Translation: Yediot Aharanot, November 6, 1983).

Owners Appeal Massive Land Grab

Israeli military authorities seized more than 200 dunums of land belonging to landowners from the village of Jamma'in, early this November, by declaring it 'government property'. Meanwhile, it was learned this week, 10,000 dunums was taken earlier this week from Lubban al-Sharqiyeh. Villagers say it is to be afforested and handed to the Israeli settlement of Shilo.

The land seizure notice, which was issued by the Israeli custodian of absentee property, stated that only 60 dunums of land were "declared government property." The notification, which was handed to the village *mukhtar*, Ali Abd al-Rahman Mohammed, did not include the customary map of the seized land or any other specifications. The *mukhtar* and the head of the village council, Mahmoud Abdallah Mahmoud, discovered on visiting the threatened land plot with the Israeli custodian of absentee property that the area in question exceeded 200 dunums.

Most of the land is planted with olive trees. A portion, however, is rocky.

In another related story, it was recently revealed that the Israeli authorities notified villagers from Lubban al-Sharqiyeh, last August 8, of their intention to seize an estimated 10,000 dunums of land from the village, for a forest. Again, the notification did not specify the land plots marked for confiscation.

When the village *mukhtar*, Yunis Samara, whose family was among several other big families which lost large areas, checked with the Israeli custodian of absentee property, they discovered that the forest was intended for the nearby Shilo settlement.

Samara submitted an objection to the measure on behalf of all 56 families last month. The objection, however, was rejected on the grounds that it did not meet the legal requirements of an official objection. . . . . .

Lawyer Felicia Langer, who represents the owners, said she sent a letter to the military governor's legal advisor and the Israeli custodian of absentee property complaining that the land confiscation order did not include a map of the threatened land. She has also demanded that the Israeli officer who ordered the confiscation accompany her to the land and delineate it for her.

She has not received an answer.

Israel's Militias Hit in Continuing Resistance

Popular resistance to the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon peaked this week with the shooting dead of one local mercenary militia commander and the critical wounding of another in separate attacks, November 7, and 9. There was a total one-day strike in South Lebanon, November 8, to protest Israeli collective punishment and indiscriminate arrests.

Ahmad Salloum, commander of the Israeli-backed "national guard" militia in the town of Nabatiya, was shot dead on Monday morning, November 7. Israeli military sources said he was driving in the town with two bodyguards, when his car came under automatic fire. Salloum died instantly, and his two bodyguards were wounded.

Immediately after the incident, Israeli troops and units of the Sa'ad Haddad-led force clamped the town under curfew and began searching for the attackers. Foreign correspondents reported 12 arrests.

Two days later, fighters of the National Resistance Movement struck again against the same militia group, critically wounding the branch leader of the village of Kharouf. Hatem Atweh was driving on a road south of his home village when unidentified guerillas opened fire, hitting him in the head and wounding one of his guards. The Israeli-backed militia leader was initially taken to Sidon hospital but later helicoptered to Safad hospital, in the Galilee. His condition was described as "critical."

The "National Guard," frequently called the "civil guard" militia, was established by the Israeli Army shortly after the invasion in June 1982. The militia group is said to number between 50 and 100 men in several villages. Israeli military authorities aim to incorporate the militia group and the Sa'ad Haddad force into one force which would rule South Lebanon with Israeli coordination, according to reports published this week in the Israeli press.

Amir Drori, the Israeli commander of the northern region, told *The Jerusalem Post* that militia drawn from the various sects in South Lebanon are to be placed in the various villages in order to assist in "maintaining security." *The Post* quoted "observers" as saying that the "new army" would be used in preventing attacks against Israel.

Strike

The Israeli closure of the bridges on the Awali River after the bombing of their Tyre headquarters on the weekend and the ongoing campaign of arrests in South Lebanon triggered protest in the areas occupied by Israelis.

A general commercial strike, which was called for by the Higher Shi'ite Council and the Amal Movement on November 8, was fully implemented.

Reporters in South Lebanon said that all commercial movement came to a halt, as most residents in Nabatiya, Sidon, Tyre, and other towns remained in their homes. The strike was also observed in Beirut and the mountain areas.

The Jerusalem Post speculated that the strike call came to protest the Israeli authorities' forceful eviction of Lebanese civilian and police officials from the city hall of Sidon two days earlier.

At the same time, military operations against Israeli forces continued to cost casualties. Accumulating reports in Israeli papers said that four soldiers were wounded in separate guerilla raids.

The most daring attack occured on Saturday, November 5, when the military government building in Sidon was attacked with rocket and light arms fire. The attack shook the Israeli Army. Israeli military sources quoted by Israeli papers said that the Israeli Army had beefed up defenses around major Israeli positions and buildings in South Lebanon.

Three Israeli soldiers were wounded, November 7, when their patrol was attacked on the Tyre-Shibriha road. The Israeli Army mounted a search for the attackers but no arrests were reported. On the previous day an Israeli soldier driving a truck on the Jezzine road was attacked and wounded in the legs by unidentified gunmen.

Among other attacks which Israeli military spokesmen claimed did not result in any casualties was an attack on an Israeli position near Rashidiya.

US, Israel Beat Anti-Syria War Drums

Fear of a major military clash, with Israel and the US taking on Syria, increased rapidly this week. Several belligerant statements emanating from the White House increased tensions against a background of the reinforcement of the US Navy's Sixth (Mediterranean) Fleet by 30 more vessels and troops fresh from the Grenada invasion. US political and military officials hinted loudly at a possible retaliation for the blast that killed over 200 Marines in Beirut two weeks ago.

Israel organised a call-up exercise in which hundreds of thousands of reserves reported to their bases. Politicians and soldiers in Israel both made statements saying this was "no threat" to Syria. Abba Eban, the former foreign minister, admitted on Israel Radio, November 9, however, that Israel was under pressure from its "friends" in Washington to attack Syria.

The Syrian Army responded to the US and Israeli moves by calling up its reserves on November 7.

The fears of war started early in the week when US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger refused to confirm or deny reports of a possible US strike. US commentators speculate the US will move against Syrian positions in the Beqa'a Valley and Iranian militia positions.

General John Fies, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, did not improve the situation when he said, "I think we should attack."

There were several reports of US and Israeli planes being spotted on reconaissance and spying flights over different areas in Lebanon. Fighting in and around Beirut flared again this week. US Marines were forced out of one of their positions, November 7, east of the Beirut International Airport. The Marine spokesman in the city said the position was "unnecessary." Snipers from the Shi'ite slums forced the US withdrawals. The heavy fighting around the airport was described by foreign journalists as the heaviest since the September 25 cease-fire between the civil war factions. The airport was closed temporarily during the November 7 clashes.

S. Lebanese Warn Israelis Not to Close Awali Line

"A climate of insurrection reigns in South Lebanon, and if the occupation forces attempt to realise their threat to close the bridges of the Awali River, they will face an unprecedented popular explosion," Amal leder Nabih Berri declared in Geneva, hours before the Tyre-based command of the occupation forces went up, November 4. Since, notwithstanding a massive deployment of land, air and naval forces and a campaign of intimidation and repression rare in its dimensions even for the usually repressive occupation troops, the population of South Lebanon has demonstrated an almost incredible level of struggle and the intention to keep it up until the final liquidation of the occupation itself.

The closure of the Awali bridges in "retaliation" for the Tyre attack was followed almost immediately by mass demonstrations of thousands of southern Lebanese from all over the area who practically besieged the troops charged with the closure. The demonstrations, sit-ins and clashes, accompanied by public appeals and cables of protest to the Beirut government and to international organisations, have lasted for four days, forcing the occupation command to partially retract on its decision, November 4, and open the bridges in the direction of Beirut, while still maintaining the closure for traffic southwards.

Meanwhile, first reports from south Lebanon affirm that the general strike called for, November 8, throughout South Lebanon by all the political, religious, cultural and labour organisations has been respected and followed totally, despite strong pressures and threats by the occupation authorities and continued mass arrests and round-ups.

In Sidon, the 300 officials of the Lebanese public administration, headed by the city's governor, continue their protest action against their expulsion from their offices in the municipality building, allegedly for "security reasons," by the occupation forces. The larger part of the building was occupied immediately after the invasion, in June 1982, but a wing had been left to the Lebanese governor and the officials of eight civil government departments and public services. Ordered to evacuate the offices shortly after the Tyre bombing, the officials have undertaken a sit-in of protest. The occupation command informed the governor, November 8, that the expulsion is "temporary, and the officials will soon be able to return to their offices."

Horrifying Scenes at Beseiged Camps

by Livia Rokach

ROME — While declining any responsibility or participation of Syrian forces in the inter-Palestinian events in Tripoli, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad told Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in Damascus on Monday, November 7, that he had "for a long time informed (PLO Chairman Yasir) Arafat of negative development inside Fatah which would end by turning against him, but Arafat did not want to listen."

A correspondent of the Rome daily *Il Messaggero* who reached Tripoli on November 6, sent the following descriptions of the situation in the northern Lebanese town and Palestinian camps around it. "The Palestinian camp of Nahr al-Bared exists no more. It is a spectral, levelled space filled with smoking debris. No one knows how many civilians have died here in the past three day since the camp had been surrounded and attacked with every type of weapon. It was not possible to count the dead under the unceasing bombings, Arafat told me.

"Long and disorderly lines of refugees, mainly women, exhausted old people and children, form ragged dots between the fields and olive groves around countryside of Tripoli. They don't know where to go or to whom to appeal. Columns of ambulances travel between the still active Palestinian positions and the five hospitals in town, discharging the wounded into the corridors, the waiting rooms, or just at the gates. Often the wounded stay there until they die, and the corpses, enveloped in nylon bags sprayed with chloroform concentrates, are transferred into refrigerator-trucks parked in front of the hospitals, where stunned women who have no more tears come to identify a son, a husband, a grandchild, a relative.

"The entire northern part of Tripoli is jammed with military traffic; the centre of the southern part of the town is completely deserted. The Lebanese residents have escaped in terror, fearing that after the conquest of the Baddawi camp, the fighting will extend to these neighbourhoods, according to the tactical model already tried in Beirut. But the Lebanese of Tripoli have aready been involved. In al-Miya neighbourhood between the commercial centre and the port on Sunday at 10:00 am there were already 113 civilians killed in the bombings.

"The order to evacuate Nahr al-Bared came after two rockets hit the concrete underground shelter in the camp. All its occupants were buried under the debris. Among them were 23 families of survivors of the massacres at Sabra and Shatilla." Some hours later, under heavy bombing, Baddawi camp was also evacuated.

One major problem for both sides is noxious fumes from the blazing north Tripoli refinery, *Il Messaggero* continued. But on the ground there is an immense confusion, an infernal chaos and one can hardly breath because the air is dense with sulphuric acid and other dangerous toxic gases created by the fires which continue to consume the refinery and liquid gas containers bombed three days ago, threatening all parties to the conflict and the civilian population. There is no authority, however, to regulate this problem. The Lebanese gendarmerie has sent all its men home, without uniform and without arms. The army has moved towards Beirut, to avoid any involvement.

"In the afternoon, three Grad rockets hit the town, provoking confusion and panic in the conflicting camps and among the population. As of Monday, 6:00 pm, Tripoli is completely isolated. It is impossible to reach it, and above all, impossible to get out of here."

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 184, November 11, 1983:

Number of original articles submitted to censors 28
Number of articles totally censored out 8
Number of articles partially censored but used 4
Number of articles passed 16

WB Comes Out For Abu Ammar

East Jerusalem shops were shut tight November 7 after a call for a strike in support of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat/ AO photo

East Jerusalem was shut tight, November 7, as Palestinian residents of the occupied territories watched with utmost concern the news of fighting in Tripoli. The strike was in response to a call for support for PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat. There were several calls for an immediate end to the fighting and expressions of worry at the increasing number of casualties among Palestinian residents.

There were demonstrations and gatherings in Nablus, Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, where one youth was wounded, Amari camp, near Ramallah, and the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip. Curfews were imposed on the *qasbah* quarter in Nablus and Dheisheh after clashes with Israelis. Meanwhile, Palestinian national institutions in the occupied territories issued statements calling for a halt in the fighting and a resolution of the conflict through democratic dialogue.

. . . . . .

Adnan Gharib, a resident of Dheisheh camp, was hit in the leg when Israeli soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in Dheisheh camp. The camp was then put under curfew.

West Bank professional unions issued a statement, November 7, calling for an immediate cease-fire "and the use of democratic means to solve the conflict within the PLO institutions." The statement rejected any attempts. . . . . .

. . . . . .

The Central Committee of the Red Crescent Society in the West Bank and Gaza Strip issued a statement denouncing the fighting. They called for "an immediate halt to the massacre in Tripoli." The Jerusalem-based Arab Thought Forum denounced the "acts of violence in Tripoli" and called for "maintenance of the independence of the Palestinian decision."

Abd al-Raouf Abu Assab, member of the souvenir shop-owners union, told *Al Fajr* that the commercial strike was comprehensive in Jerusalem. "We merchants denounce the internal fighting in Tripoli and the Arab countries' lack of concern."

(For West Bank reactions to the fighting in north Lebanon see page 13)

Tax and Gold Grabbed in Hebron

Israeli tax collectors made a series of raids on Hebron merchants, this week. On November 2, teams of officials distributed tax demands in the Qazazin and Bab Zawiyeh quarters. Two days later, they moved on jewelry shops, confiscating gold and bracelets. Haj Mohammad Sharif, a local jeweler, said taxmen have been making the rounds of jewelers for the past month, examining stock and demanding account books.

Mohammad Nimr Hasouneh, a merchant in Qazazin quarter, told *Al Fajr* that over 65 merchants were handed demands for between IS10,000-200,000.

Hasouneh, who owns a small grocery, said his demand was for IS140,000. Another merchant who refused to give his name said, "it is unbelievable, especially when there is obvious stagnation in the market."

A furniture store owner in Bab al-Zawiyeh told *Al Fajr*, "I challenge them to come and see how much we sell everyday. They should confiscate our shops and pay us so that we can feed our families."

Naim Hasouneh, owner of a large grocery shop, complained that the major devaluation of the shekel has hit both merchants and customers hard.

Suleiman Horoub told *Al Fajr* that about a dozen jewelry shop owners were taken to the customs department in Hebron and interrogated about untariffed gold. Horoub said that he paid IS215,000 as tariff because he bought bracelets from local residents. Horoub told *Al Fajr* that the custom house men confiscated more than one kilogramme of gold belonging to Abd al-Ghafar Natshe, closed his shop and imprisoned him for three days last week.

Abu Abed Ja'abari, owner of a Jerusalem taxi office, told *Al Fajr* that the taxmen are also imposing "unbelievable" taxes on drivers. He said one driver, Shukri Said, who works the Hebron-Jerusalem route, received a demand for IS90,000.

ELECTED MAYOR WAS DUE TO ATTEND CEREMONY IN HIS HONOUR

Israel Bars Shaka'a's Health Check

Israeli military authorities refused permission for the elected mayor of Nablus, Bassam Shaka'a, to travel to the US last week to attend a special ceremony in Livonia, Michigan and receive medical check-ups.

Shaka'a, who is now being held under *de facto* town arrest, applied to the military authorities two weeks ago for the travel permit. His application, however, was turned down without explanation. Another travel application filed by Shaka'a's lawyer, Felicia Langer, was also turned down.

The elected mayor of Nablus intended to travel to the US to attend a ceremony in which he was to receive the key of the town of Livonia from its mayor Edward H McNamara. Shaka'a said he received an invitation from the mayor last month inviting him to the US between November 10-13 for the ceremony. The mayor also intended to use his trip to take medical tests on his legs, since his artificial legs are uncomfortable. McNamara visited the occupied territories and met Shaka'a as part of a delegation of American and Canadian mayors organised by the Association of Arab-American University Graduates.

Shaka'a sent a telegramme to Livonia thanking them for the invitation and informing them that he was waiting for the military authorities' permission to travel.

Shaka'a described the latest Israeli move as "part of the repressive policy which prevents contacts between the West Bank and the outside world."

"Shock Syndrome" Tactic Leads to Dozens of Curfews

The new policy of frequent use of curfews now in force in the West Bank, was described this week as a "shock syndrome" intended to put down protest, by Israeli Military Coordinator for the Occupied Territories General Binyamin Ben Eliezer. Israeli troops concentrated their attention on Dheisheh refugee camp, near Bethlehem, this week.

"The new main entrance into Dheisheh refugee camp, opened by camp residents a few months ago, was sealed, November 8, by the Israeli Army. The main entrance that opens onto the Bethlehem-Hebron highway has been shut for several months now.

"This severe measure came a few days after the Israeli military coordinator of the West Bank, General Binyamin Ben Eliezer, talked about the "shock syndrome" used to quell the increased civil protests against Israeli policy and its attempts to create a new leadership to replace the PLO in order to resettle the Palestinian refugees.

"Dheisheh residents said a group of Israeli officers and soldiers carrying maps toured the camp on the night of November 6, making for the main road into the camp. A curfew was imposed so that the soldiers could seal the road, but when the news spread in the camp residents took to the streets *en masse*. In the demonstrations Israeli soldiers were stoned. Soldiers shot at the demonstrators and fired tear gas to disperse them. The closure attempt was suspended because of the trouble.

"On November 7, camp residents demonstrated against the Israeli policies and stoned Israeli vehicles. A curfew was immediately imposed on the camp and the demonstrators were pursued by the army. One resident, Adnan Gharib, was injured in the process. All men over 14 years old were rounded up and held outside until the following morning. Many youths were beaten and cursed during their detention by soldiers who were yelling "no one gave us as much trouble as you did," residents reported.

"While the men were detained and during the curfew, the road was sealed off. It was the sixth curfew at Dheisheh camp in the past few days.

"Meanwhile, eyewitnesses said a bus belonging to the Israeli army deliberately chased two school girls near the camp, attempting to run them over. One of the girls, Ahlam Qaderh, was injured as a result. Other attempts by settlers to break into the camp have been foiled." (Translation: Al Ittihad, November 9).

Dheisheh camp remained curfewed all week. According to Israeli reports, two roads in the camp were sealed, November 8.

There were reports of sporadic clashes between Palestinians, the Israeli Army and settlers from all over the West Bank every day in the past week. On November 3, the Hebron-Beer Sheba road was shut for a period and an area of the city curfewed after an Israeli was injured by stone throwers.

At Rachel's Tomb, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, a petrol bomb was thrown at a tourist bus. No injuries were reported.

Curfews on Balata camp, near Nablus, and Arroub, midway between Bethlehem and Hebron, were lifted. Kalandia camp remained closed overnight.

The next day, there were reports of brief stone-throwing skirmishes in Nablus and along the Kfar Saba-Qalqiliya road. On November 5, central Nablus was curfewed for 24 hours after a repeat of the previous day's incident. Roads in Jenin were reported barricaded by local youths.

In the Gaza Strip there were demonstrations, November 7, at Nusseirat camp and the Islamic University in Gaza city. During the protests, a private car belonging to a policeman was torched by an angry crowd. The Israeli military moved in to extricate the officer and arrest six demonstrators.

An Israeli soldier was hurt when a bus in which she was travelling near Gilo settlement in the Jerusalem suburbs was hit by stones.

Jalazon refugee camp and part of Halhoul were curfewed, November 8, after stone-throwing incidents. An Israeli was reportedly wounded in the Halhoul incident. Israeli soldiers reportedly fired tear gas at Nablus protestors. Stone and garbage barricades appeared in the town of Bir Zeit.

Israel Radio reported, November 9, that an Israeli bus was attacked by Hebron school students as it was travelling to the Kiryat Arba settlement. The report noted that a young Israeli settler was injured and hospitalised in Jerusalem. Settlers aboard the bus fired shots in the air and broke into Tariq Ibn Ziad School and took the principal away. Israeli soldiers later returned him to his school. The station reported that Palestinian sources said he had been beaten up. Israel sources denied this.

After reports of the kidnapping spread, demonstrating Palestinians took to the streets and stoned Israeli targets in Hebron. The offices of the Village Leagues were hit by demonstrators.

At Jalazon camp, a second curfew was imposed, apparently after Israeli vehicles were stoned by protesting youth. In the village of Khadr, near Bethlehem, windshields of Israeli cars were broken as students at the local school stoned settlers.

Stone throwing was reported in al-Bireh and tyres were burned in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Wadi Joz. (Translations: Local and Israeli Press).

Guards Beat, Tear Gas Neve Tertza Strikers

The Prisons Service's security units used tear gas, October 31, against 30 women security prisoners who demonstrated in their cells at Neve Tertza Prison so it was learned, November 4, after the authorities permitted prisoners' lawyer, Lea Tsemel, to visit them.

Tsemel said that the prisoners have refused to work as of last July in protest at being forced to cook for prison guards. In response, the prison authorities cut visit permits, ended access to television, radio and newspapers and only permit one hour of exercise per day.

On October 31, the prison guards started to remove a library of prisoners' books from the dining hall to another section. In response, the prisoners started to bang on doors. . .

Spokesperson for the Prisons Service Major Shimon Malka said the prisoners started to scream and went mad in their cells. They threw their belongings around, and there was a fear that they would set fire to matresses, he said.

The Prisons Service's Commissioner Dr Mordechai Wertheimer was called to the prison, but his efforts and those of prison governor Major Hayah Shoham were unsuccessful, the spokesman reported.

When the words did not help, the spokesman said, the Prisons Service's special unit intervened and threw tear gas into the cells of the angry prisoners. The spokesperson denied Lea Tsemel's claims that the prisoners were beaten. He explained that the fact of the matter is that prisoners, who refuse to work because of their ideological approach — according to which any job taken in the prisons is for 'Zionist imperialism' — are denied benefits which are beyond the legal minimum.

Some of the prisoners are sentenced for life.

The Prisons Service's spokesman did not know about the incident until called by reporters.

Tsemel repeated after the spokesman's denial that she has testimony from prisoners that they were beaten on their arms and heads when they tried to stretch them out of their cells to get some fresh air. She added that when she was permitted to visit the prisoners, three days after the incident, there was still a strong smell of the tear gas on their clothes and some claimed they were denied medical care.

The spokesperson made it clear that the Prisons Service will continue to respond severely to every case of disturbance of order in the jails. (Translation: HaAretz, Al Hamishmar, Yediot Aharonot, November 6, 1983).

Ten days after the tear gas attack on women prisoners, Felicia Langer, who visited two prisoner clients in Neve Tertza prison, November 8, complained of eye irritation and felt that her face was burning. After reporting to Dr Alain Levy of Jerusalem for a health examination, she obtained a medical statement that she had a red face, was shedding tears uncontrollably and was coughing.

The lawyer quoted two prisoners, Siham Barghouthi and Itaf Salameh, whom she stayed with briefly, as saying that three prisoners, Nihayah Mousa, Salmah Salameh and Terese Halaseh, remain in bad condition. They also told her that a number of other prisoners are still complaining of sore throats and stomach aches.

Langer said she could notice that Siham's clothes were covered with yellow stripes of stain from the tear gas. She added that she felt the eye irritation and burning face as she hugged her to say good-bye.

Langer wrote letters to members of the Israeli Knesset, Amnesty International and the UN Secretary- General, and attached a copy of the medical report. Langer's letter stated: "If almost 10 days after (the attack) and after a short contact with victims I felt what I felt, it is easy to realise how powerful the gas was and its effect on the captives in a closed place without fresh air."

28 Israelis Die as Tyre HQ Levelled

Twenty-eight Israeli Army personnel and 32 Lebanese and Palestinians were killed, November 4, when a truck loaded with explosives rammed into the Israeli military headquarters in Tyre, South Lebanon. Three buildings collapsed as a result of the suicide mission. Another 29 Israelis and 12 Lebanese were injured.

Responsibility for the blast, which occured in the early hours of Friday morning, was claimed by an organisation calling itself the "Islamic Jihad." Observers believe that the group is a Shi'ite organisation that split from Nabih Barri's Amal.

As the Israel Army moved in heavy equipment to dig victims out of the rubble, a process which took all day, curfews were declared in the area; the Israeli-occupied south was sealed both from the rest of Lebanon and from Israel. Defence Minister Moshe Arens visited the scene of the devastation and promised immediate retaliation.

Israeli fighter planes bombed a number of positions in the Shouf mountains. Over 60 persons were killed and over 100 injured, according to reports from the Shouf.

The 10 air attacks, which took place in the morning and afternoon of November 4, hit Palestinian and Druze locations near Bhamdoun and Aley. Western observers who visited the bombed sites confirmed assertions by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Jumblatt, speaking in Geneva, that Druze positions were the main targets. Observers noted that no Syrian positions were touched, despite Israeli claims that Syria is indirectly responsible for the Tyre blast.

Collective Punishment

In the aftermath of the attack on its headquarters, the Israeli Army isolated South Lebanon from the rest of Lebanon. Traffic on the Awali River, the Israeli Army's new location, was stopped both ways for three days. The city of Tyre itself was placed under curfew for three days, and many residents were rounded up by the Israeli Army.

In response to the restriction, a total strike was called, November 8, in all the Lebanese areas under Israeli occupation. According to local reports, the strike was totally successful.

Once the curfew and closure was lifted, people were reportedly only allowed into the south on foot and after declaring the reasons for their visit and the period of their stay.

NSF Victorious at Geneva Talks

by Livia Rockach

GENEVA — Compared by some to a chess game of the highest quality and by others to a dual in which both parties brilliantly moved their swords in search of their partner's weak or strong points, the first round of the so-called Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference concluded here on November 4, after a week of discussions and the adoption of two documents reflecting a political balance of forces decidedly favourable to the Lebanese National Salvation Front. A positive evaluation of these first results, considered "better than anything expected beforehand," was expressed by Syrian President Hafez al-Assad to Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in their meeting in Damascus on November 7.

The second round of the conference, formally scheduled for November 14, will probably not start before November 21, according to Lebanese sources, as it will be impossible for Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to meet US President Ronald Reagan until the latter's return to Washington from his current tour of the Far East. The results of Gemayel's meeting with Reagan in regard to the abrogation of the May 17 US-sponsored Israeli-Lebanese accord will be crucial to the evolution of the second round of the Geneva talks and their general outcome. However, there are growing signs that the US and Israel are both dismayed by the manner, unfavourable to them, in which the first round at Geneva has evolved. Some observers are predicting they may undertake military action in Lebanon in an attempt to change the military, and consequently political, balance of forces.

The suspension was decided upon after the demands of the opposition to the Gemayel regime were made, with the explicit aim of putting both Amin and President Reagan to the test. The former, in fact has been charged by a resolution of the conference to convince Washington of the need, pressed by National Salvation Front Leaders, to renegotiate the May 17 accord and obtain, in the first place and as a premise to all forthcoming negotiations, the total evacuation of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory. If this goal is obtained, the second round will be dedicated to a discussion of fundamental institutional reform of the Lebanese state and society. Otherwise, the conference will either have to abrogate the accord unilaterally or state its own failure, in which case the all-out civil war will be resumed, according to the principle of a "package deal solution" explained to the media and observers in Geneva by Lebanese Progressive Socialist party leader Walid Jumblatt.

This result was achieved by the conference participants after two days of consultations, discussions and clashes. It was announced in a short communique in which all parties said they aspire to see Lebanon's territorial integrity, unity and independence re-established. The communique further stated that "seeing the circumstances in which the May 17, 1983 accord was stipulated and the international complications which may derive from the present situation, the conference asked the president of the Lebanese republic to take the necessary measures and steps in the international scene to put an end to the Israeli occupation and secure Lebanon's total sovereignty over the whole of its territory and in all the fields of its national life."

Subtly flattered by the "recognition" thus accorded to his personal position, Amin Gemayel was induced to distance himself from the Phalangist Party and forced not only to admit that the accord negotiated by his regime was inadequate and unacceptable to the majority of the Lebanese people but also to agree to work towards its radical modification, beginning with the cancellation of the clause linking the Israeli withdrawal to that of other "foreign forces." The Syrian and Palestinian forces, in fact, are not mentioned.

Amin Gemayel was made to swallow the toad after much resistance on his and his allies' part.

He was, however, put in difficulties by the fact that the conservative Muslim members of the rightist delegation, Sunni Saeb Salam and Shi'ite Adel Osseirane, ended up taking positions nearer to those of the NSF than to those of Gemayel and Chamoun. Amin also seemed taken by surprise by Syrian Foreign Minister Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who recalled to Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun that "it was you who called on us to send troops to Lebanon," cordially wished Amin success and promised him "all possible help" in his future efforts to bring about an abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese accord. Ably outmanouevred and cornered by similar Lebanese and Syrian subtleties, Amin ended up giving the opposition leaders and the conference "his word of honour" that he will "never ratify the accord," which in fact, not having been ratified until now by the Lebanese president, is juridically non-existent. The opposition leaders also supplied Amin with a series of suggestions on how to convince the US and Israel to accept the abrogation. Among others, these suggestions include a normal and definite abrogation of the 1969 Cairo Agreement, which gave the PLO the right to act from South Lebanon against Israel, the stationing of reinforced UN troops along the borders, the reactivation of the Mixed Armistice Commission, "and any other measure which will secure Israel's northern border without compromising politically, militarily and economically Lebanese sovreignty."

* * *

The Dawn
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Unforgivable Crime

Thousands of Palestinians were killed, injured and expelled from their 35-year-old shacks during the indiscriminate shelling of Nahr al-Bared and Baddawi refugee camps in north Lebanon, this week. Unfortunately, the perpetrators are Palestinians who can only be described as short-sighted and anti-revolutionary, and, consequently, self-destructive dangerous criminals.

The Palestinian people, and especially those refugees who have lived since 1948 in camps scattered all over the Arab states neighbouring Palestine, have been targetted by their enemies because their mere existence reminded the conspirators of their crimes, which stained their foreheads with blood.

The first Israeli target in the 1967 war was to get rid of the refugees, and in Aqbat Jaber and Ain al-Sultan camps, near Jericho, over 60,000 peoples were driven out under a hail of shells and bombs. The Israeli occupiers have continued to increase their strangling pressure through direct expulsions, demolition of homes and constant pressure of enclosure.

The camps in Jordan and Lebanon were the first targets of Israeli revenge raids. In 1982 the south Lebanon camps were razed.

Other regimes in the area helped Israel with its aim: Jordan in 1970, Lebanon in 1975, Syria in 1976 and Iraq in 1978.

None of these cold-blooded crimes succeeded; on the contrary, the Palestinian people and their vanguard within the PLO consolidated their unity and forced the world to admit to the independent existence of the people and their right to self-determination. Above all, the Palestinians forced friend and enemy alike to respect the Palestinian democracy as implemeted within the PLO. The Palestinian people's support of the PLO has always been due to this democracy, which they themselves chose and preserved through the most critical stages of the Palestinian struggle.

What was committed this week by Palestinian hands is one more crime. But the people are not going to give in; their only chance to continue living lies in preserving their life line-the PLO – independent and united by defending the legitimate resolutions adopted at the Palestine National Council and defending the legitimate leadership elected at the PNC.

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US Palestinians Back Arafat

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington DC Correspondent

Palestinians in the US, like their compatriots everywhere, are agonising over the current crisis in Lebanon. Al Fajr's *Washington DC Correspondent*, Ghassan Bishara *interviewed leading Palestinian Americans before the latest outbreak of fighting in Tripoli.*

It simply hurts, Palestinians here say, to see such intense Palestinian and Arab hostility against other Palestinians in north Lebanon. Presidents of some Palestinian organisations agreed to speak about the tension and about what they know is happening and will happen in Tripoli.

The common reply from most of those asked was that Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese national forces are natural allies against the enemies of the Arab people. "Any act by either party leading to confrontation is not in the interests of the Syrian or Palestinian people," said Anan Jabara, president of the Detroit-based Palestine Aid Society. Differences within Fatah and between the PLO and any Arab government should be resolved through democratic dialogue. Rather than acting responsibly by helping the two Fatah factions work out their differences peacefully, the Syrian government is doing precisely the opposite, said Issa Hassan, president of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine. Syria, he said, "is encouraging the split in Fatah, and that is very, very disturbing."

"Whatever motive the Syrian government has will be left up to them," he continued, but "I wish that an Arab government would put the Arab cause, the Palestinian cause, in the forefront."

Anan Jabara also believes that Syria should not have intervened in a Fatah dispute, saying, "I really don't think that they should."

In an official telegramme to various national and international leaders, Naseer Aruri, president of the AAUG (the Association of Arab-American University Graduates), called upon "the Syrian leadership to shoulder its historic responsibility by leading the Arab national effort in full partnership with the PLO and the Lebanese National Forces in confronting US imperialism and Israeli expansionism" in Lebanon and Palestine. Aruri also urged Syrian leaders to "recognise the independence of the Palestinian national movement" and use its influence to reach a political solution, rather than back a military confrontation over internal differences in Palestinian ranks.

While admitting that individuals in the PLO should abide by the collective decisions of the Palestine National Council, Jabara said that "to have democratic reforms is a process that takes time. . . and it doesn't happen with fighting (or with) a *coup d'etat* mentality." She stressed the need for reforms in the movement, adding that "shooting people because they are incapable of having democratic reforms is not a democratic way to enhance democratic reforms."

The Ramallah president said it is not unusual to have dissent in a movement such as the PLO. "Dissent is a part of life, and I feel that it is a kind of strength for any group of this kind to have it. But we have to learn to deal with it as Palestinians because there is nothing our adversaries would like to see more than a split."

Hassan, whose Ramallah association is the largest in the US – with 20,000 members –, and Anan Jabara were both careful not to take sides, for fear of widening the gap between the two factions of Fatah. They expressed their views about the Abu Musa faction with great circumspection. Jabara said that the group "could have had much more sympathy from larger Palestinian institutions had they insisted on democratic means to resolve these differences. You can't complain about the lack of democracy (and) resort to arms to resolve these same differences." Hassan refuted the dissidents' claim to independence, saying, "If they are not being pushed by one side or the other, they must be getting some kind of financial backing. . . "

Anan Jabara, concerned about the future of the PLO, said that Palestinians everywhere would have supported some or all of Abu Musa's demands and then added that one doesn't "really deal with people's intentions but with the consequences of their work." Abu Musa, she continued, "ended up allowing people who have interests in weakening the PLO to intervene, so he lost the sympathy of the Palestinian people." Jabara then concluded, "I don't believe you can destroy the PLO and talk about reform because there would be nothing left to reform." For 20 years of struggle, she said, the Palestinian people have achieved what they have with the PLO as their sole legitimate representative, and "I don't think it is anybody's right to come and destroy it under the banner of reform. The unity of the PLO is at stake at this stage."

AAUG Petions Arab Leaders

by Ghassan Bishara

The Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) issued a statement, November 5, about the events in north Lebanon. It was sent to Hafez al-Assad of Syria, PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat, Secretary-General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi and UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar.

The AAUG called upon "all patriotic Palestinian fighters to cease and desist from acts of fratricide and resolve all differences through democratic and non-violent methods." They appealed to combatants in north Lebanon "to defend the independence and unity of the Palestinian resistance" and for Chairman Arafat to hold "an immediate emergency session of the Palestinian National Council to resolve internal Palestinian issues through. . . dialogue." They called on the Palestinian opposition to join political efforts for national reconciliation and unity.

The AAUG called on the Syrian leadership to "shoulder its historic responsibility (in) full partnership with the PLO and Lebanese National Forces in confronting US imperialism and Israeli expansionism in Lebanon and occupied Palestine." The statement urged the Syrians to recognise the independence of the Palestinian national movement and to use its influence to encourage a political solution to internal Palestinian differences and to "counsel restraint to those seeking military solutions."

The (AAUG) said that "Arab regressive forces" are in *de facto* consensus. . . with "Western and Zionist imperialist goals" to destroy the PLO as the sole, independent and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They issued a call to Arab people and responsible Arab national institutional leaders to "halt this process and provide an umbrella of security and support to the Palestinian movement."

The AAUG also called on the Arab League to effect a cease-fire and "end the ethnocide against the Palestinian people."

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

The Reign of the Cynic

by Roger Heacock

It finally happened. What people refused to believe or see came true: Ronald Reagan, the 'Dream' elected by the American people in 1980, has turned into a nightmare. The TV "knucklehead," as he was described by Murray Kepton in the *New Republic* magazine recently, became the pirate's skull, with bombs and missiles as his crossbones. His ships sail the Seven Seas, pounding the palpable enemy — if possible Arab or Black — while railing at the impalpable one, whom he would paint in Red.

The unconscious irony of history has thus preserved the Satanic colouration of the US's image of its enemy. The image of the 'red man', as drawn by Thomas Jefferson, that champion of freedom and equality, still prevails. In the US Declaration of Independence, Jefferson described Native Americans who had preceded European settlers by many centuries as "the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions."

In his October 27 address to the American nation concerning the invasion of Grenada, Ronald Reagan spoke of the "thousands of terrorists" who could potentially have been set loose from Grenada, thanks to the weapons provided them. It seems that tainted by the 'redness' of its arms manufacturers, trainers and advisors, the Grenadian Army suddenly became itself red, and thus "mercilessly savage."

Too much blood has been shed, too many lines crossed, to be able to laugh at the above statement, whose idiocy nonetheless brings shame upon its author.

As in any justification by any leader of his most recent aggression, President Reagan spoke some truth during that speech. However, that truth is found not so much in the contents of the statement as in its structure. About half the speech concerned Lebanon and the interrelation of Central America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. Both in his mind and in the real world there is a connection.

It exists in his mind because the disaster wrought upon some 250 bereaved American Marines' families will appear somewhat mitigated by the rapid counter-demonstration of the effectiveness of American force, even if in a theatre thousands of miles away from Lebanon. In the president's mind (as in that of certain other "statespeople" the world over) it is the same enemy, wherever one strikes or is struck by it. This is, of course, the cynical connection between the Middle East and the Caribbean.

But the connection is a real one as well; and it is in fact US policy, under whichever president, which constitutes that connection. Ever since the decline of the British and French colonial regimes, and notably since 1945, the US has stepped in to prolong their policies, in most cases without direct political control.

This was, at the outset, the case in all important areas of the third world: the Far East, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

But the outcome in the years and decades which followed World War II varied widely from region to region, for a multitude of historical, geographical and strategic reasons. Much of East Asia, despite the commitment of energy and manpower, proved too strong to be kept under the control of the country which had not hesitated to drop nuclear bombs on one of its number.

Much of Africa, on the other hand, turned out, despite decolonisation, to be in many respects too weak and too poor to break completely from its former colonial powers and thus became a major target for US interests. The former colonial powers themselves (as well as the South African settler state) are for their part opposed to being replaced by the US in the one area where they manage to hang on to their interests and influence.

This leaves the Middle East and Latin America as the main areas for the venting of US global activism. The fact of the matter is that despite the journalistic and governmental claims to the contrary, these two regions are not more "vital" to US interests than any other in terms of strategic resources and maritime trading routes. This can easily be demonstrated by looking back 35, 25, or 15 years at the claims being made by US leaders of the vital importance to the survival of freedom and prosperity in the world, and the US, of preserving a friendly government in Peking, Saigon and Pnomh-Penh.

Whether one views this fight on the part of US leaders as a rear-guard struggle or as a see-saw project, the fact remains that Ronald Reagan is manoeuvering in precisely those two areas where he has room to maneouver.

In the Middle East and Latin America the US position is strong but dented. Lebanon and Iran (where the struggle for influence on the part of the US is far from over) are the two obvious flashpoints, not to speak of the (partially simulated) feud with Syria. In this context, Israeli brawn is happily manipulated by the sadly deficient American brain. And it should be noted that in Latin America also, the Israeli secret service and military advisors ply their wares and offer their support to willing regimes as long as they are sufficiently right-wing.

As for Latin America, it is in Central America that the testing ground presently exists. Far from being a staging area for Cuban "terrorists," Grenada is Ronald Reagan's stepping-stone to Sandinista Nicaragua, which he is determined to subjugate while preserving friendly regimes in the rest of the isthmus.

The last year of successive blunders on the part of US policy in the Middle East, beginning in June 1982 and culminating with the death of hundreds of Marines in October 1983, logically portended increased compensatory activism in Central America, first through surrogates (the Somocista bands, the Honduran and Salvadoran armies) and, as soon as a possibility presented itself, through US armed intervention.

With the benefit of hindsight it seems obvious that the overthrow of the Grenadian government had been prepared for a long time. It has now been carried out.

Unfortunately if the current operation goes sour, the pendulum may soon swing the other way, and the Middle East might do well to wince in anticipation of another blow.

Roger Heacock is Professor of American Civilisation at the University of Paris-VII.

STOP U.S. INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

NO MORE VIETNAM WARS!

JOBS, PEACE, JUSTICE: END THE NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS BUILD-UP!

MARCH ON WASHINGTON

NOV. 12

On Double Standards

by Israel Shahak

Letter to the editor, Al Hamishmar:

"A new immigrant, Garry Brenner, wrote to *Al Hamishmar*, October 24, comparing his views when living in the US with his opinions after immigrating. His letter raises questions that, beyond a doubt, relate to military service in Lebanon, namely — whether the majority of the Jewish Left in Western countries take a hypocritical stand in forbidding to the *goyim* (non-Jewish) countries what is permitted and even compulsory in the state of Israel.

"For instance, Garry Brenner's main argument regarding Israel is that Israel is a democracy, and the government decided (on the war of Lebanon) legally and in a democratic way. Very nice. However, isn't the US also a democracy (and maybe more so than the state of Israel)? By what right, then, is he proud of his wideranging objection to the decisions of the elected government in the US? Because the US President is a *goy*? I can't see any other argument.

"In Israel, Garry Brenner states, it is possible to act 'only by belonging to this people' and only through activity within it, including the army. He says it is neccessary to be on the spot, in order to avoid exceptional deeds. Why didn't he join the American Army, according to exactly the same principles, and volunteer to go to Vietnam? Why didn't he advise others to do so? Why, and by what right, did he call the USA 'America,' and why, when there, didn't he implement the basic principles he declares here?

"To conclude: he declares that from the age of 15 he demonstrated there for civil rights and 'for the foreign workers who were exploited in agricultural work.' I don't hear a word about civil rights in Upper Nazareth, for instance. His silence about 'foreign workers' — ie the Palestinians — who are exploited in agricultural work in Israel or in work under degrading exploitative conditions in Israeli towns, is meaningful. Was he indeed 'for civil rights' or did this serve as a good excuse for him to be against the *goyim*? It seems that the second answer is the correct one.

"On my visits to the US I have met many of Garry Brenner's type and I saw how, recently, their 'double standard' is made clear and disclosed to many people. It makes them angry. It seems to me that a moral person should have only one standard!" (Translation: Al Hamishmar, 7.11.83)

Professor Israel Shahak is president of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights.

Being an Arab Jerusalemite means to live as a second class citizen in the 'united' town. **Awad Abdel Fattah** of *Al Fajr* recently visited al-Thowri — once a village, now an annexed suburb — to hear of the decline in the fabric and increased activity of police against those who try to do something about it.

Al-Thowri Village: Survival Under Seige-like Conditions

A few hundred metres from the eastern border of the Old City of Jerusalem the densely populated village of al-Thowri starts and extends down through the steep mountains on which Jerusalem rests. The space between the city and the village — clear and distinct until 1967 — is now filled with Israeli buildings. There is now no possibility of construction on the side of the village nearest the Old City.

At the other end of the village nature is the main obstacle to building. The village runs up against steep slopes where house building is virtually impossible. Between these two barriers the shortage of land is understandably acute. Prominent al-Thowri residents say their village, which is under the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem municipality, lives in a state of "semi-siege."

Al-Thowri is divided in two by a wide street, leading out to neighbouring Israeli quarters. Now there are virtually no side streets. The houses are so densely packed that only lanes and alleys divide them.

Grievances Under Annexation

About one-third of al-Thowri's 12,000 inhabitants were forced out of the Old City after 1967, when the Israelis started building their "Jewish Quarter." The majority of these refugees still live in the old houses they rented. These ancient stone buildings "are not suitable for living in," said one elderly Old City evacuee. He lives with his eight-member family in two rooms with no services.

Al-Thowri's residents remember well the terror and intimidation used to get them out of their original homes. Each family has its own story about how they were ousted. Sheikh Mahmoud said that when he refued to leave, the Israelis dug around his house until there was no way in or out.

Yassin Dmeiri, a member in the administrative board of al-Thowri's youth club, recalls that a hand grenade was thrown into his house in 1968 after his father defied Israeli demands to sell up and move out. "When this attack, which was intended to intimidate us, proved unproductive, they resorted to the same methods they used against others — digging around or inside the house itself," said Yassin.

According to Ribhi Shweiki, a former lecturer at Bir Zeit University, the forced move from the Old City to the village continued until 1976. "The more people were forced out and moved to our village the more difficult and acute the housing problem became," he said. He added that one-third of the tenanted houses in the village are technically uninhabitable — so much so that some families have received destruction orders on them.

Yusef Qneibi, a member of the administrative board of the youth club who works as a tailor, told *Al Fajr* that he received a destruction order from the Jerusalem municipality two years ago. "I have not destroyed my house so far," he explained, "because I was only recently given a building license and I don't have enough money to build a new house."

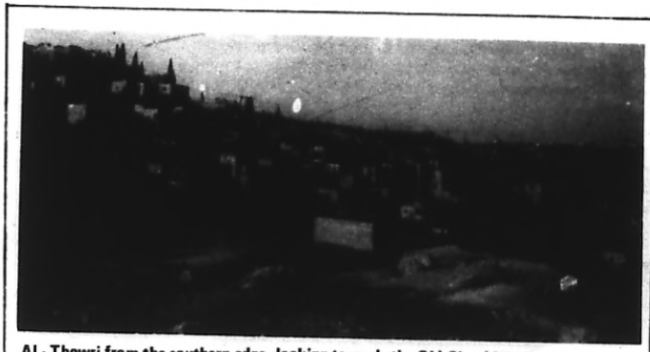
Yusef's house was one of several houses damaged during shelling in 1967. Other houses were repaired at the expense of the owners.

In and Out of Jerusalem

A perennial problem for al-Thowri is interruption of services. Teddy Kollek's municipality in West Jerusalem takes action on these problems, locals assume, only when there is something in it for Israelis. The week before the elections, for instance, one of the village's water mains was repaired. Municipal employees had damaged the pipe three months earlier and water had been pouring out of it since then.

In some parts of the village water has been cut off for two months. "We have not had water for more than a month," said Ribhi Sheiki. His family uses water from private wells which they draw themselves in buckets.

The situation of public telephones, post and medical services is not much different. The village has one small clinic which operates two hours a day. It was established by the youth club in 1976. The doctor in charge receives only a symbolic wage. Most people are forced to commute to Jerusalem for medical treatment — the clinic clearly cannot provide services for everyone. Although the village has many workers registered as members of the Israeli Labour Federation, the Histadrut, there is no affiliated Kupat Holim clinic in al-Thowri.



Al - Thowri from the southern edge looking towards the Old City / ST photo

Forced relocation...
Interruption of services...
Army harassment...

"Don't they know that all these measures only increase our hatred of the occupying force and strengthen our determination to continue our struggle against it?"

The Club Plays a Big Role

The youth club, founded in 1976, has become the central organised body in the village. On its membership has fallen the task of trying to handle the problems faced by the population.

Big problems, but small resources. Club officials are the first to point out that their work is severely limited. They point to lack of finances as their main obstacle, with political restrictions imposed by the Israelis running a close second.

Its activities have concentrated on social and cultural events and the organisation of sports in the community. Its periodic clean-up campaigns gain wide support from villagers. "In these clean-up campaigns," said Yusef Qneibi, "scores of people from the village join us in removing the dirt and garbage." The social and cultural committees of the club "specialise in national issues," said Yusef. The social committee organises regular visits to the families of the Palestinian political prisoners to give them moral support. When they can, they also give financial aid to prisoners' families The cultural committee organises regular celebrations on national occasions.

"Due to the important role of the club in the village," points out Yassin Dmeiri, "members of the administrative board have been a constant target for the Israeli authorities."

Members of the board are arrested about four times a year, they estimate. The last arrests were on the eve of the first anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. Three members were detained for two weeks "for no reason but to prevent us from commemorating the massacre," said Yusef, who was himself detained.

Last summer all nine of the administrative board were detained for two months. They were tried and fined IS5000 each, plus six months suspended imprisonment, and the club was closed for six months. They were charged with possession of forbidden posters and singing national songs.

Munir Abu Diab, of the board, was fired from his job in an Israeli bank and denied compensation for his 15 years of service. His employers said the pretext was he was involved in a security case. Since being sacked he has been unemployed.

Munir told *Al Fajr* that he consulted several lawyers but all told him his case is hopeless.

"But despite such measures," he said, "we will not stop doing our duty. Don't they know that all these measures only increase our hatred of the occupying force and strengthen our determination to continue to struggle against it?"

The view from the Old City of Jerusalem: A shortage of land and a densely packed population have created severe hardships for the residents of Al-Thowri/ST photo

Pottery from Palestine now graces the homes of thousands of visitors to these shores. At the same time the last generation of potters producing for the local domestic consumption are dying. **Steve Tamari** visited Um Abdallah, still at work in Jeeb using techniques that would not have been alien to potters in this area thousands of years ago. At the same time he talked to modern practitioners of decorative ceramics for the tourist market.

Traditional Palestinian Pottery: Technology and Tourism Take Over

Um Abdallah, the lone potter of the West Bank village of Jeeb, goes about her craft with pride, aware nonetheless that she comes at the tail-end of an age-long tradition. "For generations everyone used to make and use pottery," she recalls, but now "the old people have died; as for the young, the interest is gone." An 8000-year history of low-fire, functional pottery has virtually come to an end at the hands of less expensive substitutes, technological methods of high-fire ceramic production and the demand for highly decorative, less functional items.

As any archaeologist will attest — and this area has more than its fair share — Palestine has a rich heritage of pottery-making which reaches as far back as BC6000, when the use of clay for making cooking vessels reached Palestine from north Syria. As recently as the Mandate, pottery centres flourished in Nazareth, Ramleh, Hebron and Gaza as well as in most villages where the necessary materials were available. Before the infusion of plastic and aluminium products, these centres supplied surrounding communities with cooking-ware, water containers, clay braziers and flower pots, made with a minimum of tools, little decoration and fired with wood, brush or dung at temperatures never in excess of 800 degrees Centigrade (most glazed ceramic ware requires a temperature of at least 1000 degrees Centigrade).

Since 1967, West Bank pottery production has seen drastic changes due to the machinery, high temperature electric kilns and clay bodies available from Israeli factories. The demand for highly decorative ware has meant borrowing from the Armenian potters of Jerusalem, who have been involved in the trade as a tourist and commercial industry since the early '20s.

Today, Palestinian 'commercial potters', most of whom work in Hebron and Jerusalem, are expanding their workshops, and their profits are growing largely as part of a tourist trade dependent on Israeli and foreign consumption. Traditional potters — mostly women — are far and few between. In the West Bank villages of Sinjil, Turmos Ayya, Kufr Labad, Ya'abad and Jeeb, where as recently as the mid-'60s, there were a dozen or so potters to the village, those few left are known by the community not because of the demand for their products but because they represent the last vestiges of a rich tradition. Even their pots are sold to collectors or retailers in Jenin, Ramallah or Jerusalem.

Um Abdallah of Jeeb

The village of Jeeb, on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road, is a classic example of a Palestinian village . . . . in the West Bank. To the south and west, the settlements of Givon HaHadasha, Mahane Givon and Giv'at Zeev rest on the historic lands of Jeeb and the nearby villages of Bidu and Beitunia. To the east a massive industrial park threatens. In spite of the changing political geography, Um Abdallah, well into her 60s, manages to gather the necessary materials from hills adjacent to the village. Her routine has changed little since she began potting and resembles that of her mother and those women potters before her.

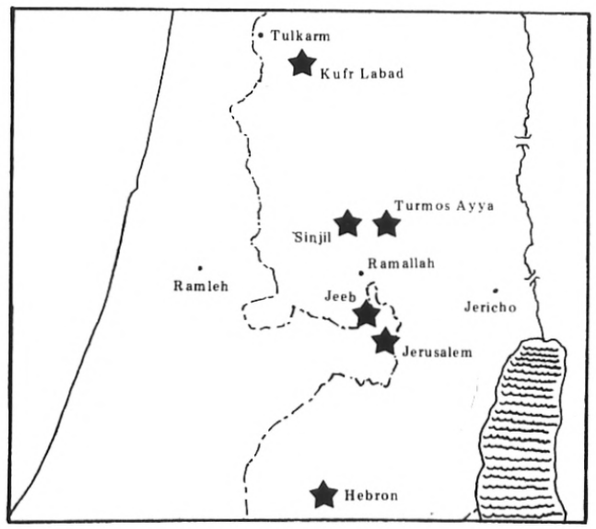
Though all the materials necessary for making pots are available in the vicinity of Jeeb, Um Abdallah must do a great deal of walking to gather her clay. From one nearby hill she digs for calcite, which added to the raw clay helps bond the particles together and provides heat resistance. From another hill she digs the raw ochre-coloured clay. She gathers brush and fires her pots on a third hill. She carries the calcite and clay in five gallon tins by herself to her village workshop where the clay mixture is made and the pots are built.

The process followed by Um Abdallah is similar to those given in accounts of pottery making in the West Bank villages of Kufr Labad, Sinjil and Turmos Ayya. The calcite is broken into small crystals under a heavy rounded stone known as a *juljal*. These are then crushed into fine particles between the two wheels of a stone grinder: the bottom is stationary and the top is rotated manually on a metal axle. The fine particles are then sifted and added to the wet clay which has set overnight in water. Um Abdallah says she mixes the clay and calcite in equal portions; in Kufr Labad a one-to-three mixture is used. When this mixture is kneeded to the right consistency, "until it feels like soaked, ground lentils," the clay is ready for shaping.

Um Abdallah squats on the floor of her workshop and starts by pinching a clay slab on the inside of a clay mold of the same clay with hay added to allow for less sticking. This slab serves as the base of the pot; once it is firm it can be removed from the mold. Clay coils are attached to the base, smoothed over so that the seam doesn't show, and then let to dry for half an hour before another coil is added. These coils form the walls of the pot and they are added until the desired height and shape in achieved.

In Kufr Labad, potters would work on six pots simultaneously, letting coils on one pot dry as another is built up. Um Abdallah makes about five pots a day, each individually. Once the basic shape is finished and the clay is no longer malleable but is still moist, excess clay is trimmed off with a knife and polished with a bomboo tool known as a *quseib*. Aside from the base molds these are Um Abdallah's only tools. The trimmings are recycled, "nothing is ever lost."

Her only decorations are the small incisions around the rim. In Turmos Ayya, pots are decorated with an iron oxide mixture, *mukrah hamra*, which shows up red on the fired pot.



While a few dozen pots are left out to dry in the sun, Um Abdallah collects brush and wood and prepares a pit for the fire. Dung is also widely used for the fire as it stores heat well. The pit is covered with a layer of brush or dung, the pots are carefully placed on the kindling and are filled with more combustibles. The fire lasts no less than half a day. Potters judge the maturity of the fire by the glow of the pots when they have reached a reddish-white colour, the fire is left to die and the pots cool overnight. Quality control consists of knocking lightly on the finished pot. A ringing sound indicates the strength and balance of the final product. Those that don't pass the test are recycled.

Function defines form and the variety of shapes and sizes of pots differ according to the needs of community households. The most popular shape is that of the *qidra*, which is derived from the word for cooking and is often used as a generic term to refer to pottery. Wide in the middle but narrowing at the top, *qidra* are used on an open fire to cook grape leaves and squash.

Matshash are low-lying wide pots used for frying inside a *taboun*, itself made of a clay and hay mixture. Clay braziers, *kanoun*, are used to heat homes in winter and are fueled by olive pressings.

Zir and *ibrik*, both narrow water jugs, are still widely used because the porosity of the clay allows water to evaporate, keeping the water inside cool. Oil lamps, pitchers and absolution vessels are also popular, 'popular' relative to the decline in use and production of traditional ware, that is.

Nabil Alqam, member of the folklore committee of the al-Bireh *Inash al-Usrah* (Family Rehabilitation Society) and a secondary school teacher in Sinjil, says, "The usefulness of (traditional) pottery fit well with our lifestyle 20 or 30 years ago. There has been a cultural change, we have forgotten the names and functions of these pots. It was a different style of industry than that prominent today."

Um Abdallah keeps busy but depends on commissions; there is not enough demand for her potential output. And no one else in the village is interested carrying on the craft. The same story holds in Sinjil and Turmos Ayya. Unless one has the technological skill and capital to maintain mass production in a factory catering largely to a tourist industry, pottery is a dead-end street.

Tourist Trade

The demise of traditional Palestinian pottery does not mean a reduction in pottery production in the West Bank. On the contrary, Jerusalem and Hebron are bustling centres of ceramic production, and tourists provide a large market for painted plates, tiles and cups. This trade depends on mechanisation, electric kilns, divison of labour, imported clay bodies, even borrowed designs and colour motifs. Nishan Balian of Jerusalem's 'Palestine Pottery', owned and operated by Armenians, claims that ceramic ware on sale in Jerusalem and Hebron is heavily indebted to the Armenian potters of Jerusalem who have been in the business since the early '20s.

The Karkashian and Balian families came to Palestine from Katahiya in Turkey on commission from the British authorities to restore the tiles on the Dome of the Rock. Both families have maintained their factories here ever since. Balian says most of the figures and designs painted on the commercial pottery of Jerusalem and Hebron are derived from their motifs, themselves from Turkish and Persian patterns.

Before 1967 the Armenian potters had a monopoly on the Jerusalem market and, says Balian, there were few Hebron potters at the time.

As the occupation wore on, more and more Palestinian potters imported electric kilns, pug mills, dry clay bodies and oxides, for decorating, from Israel. Now that firing, mixing and kneeding clay can be left to machines, production levels have risen dramatically. Labour is divided between those who throw on electric wheels — now a necessity — those who prepare handles, lids and spouts, those who decorate and those who load and unload the kilns. Mass production has become a fact of life for craftsmen.

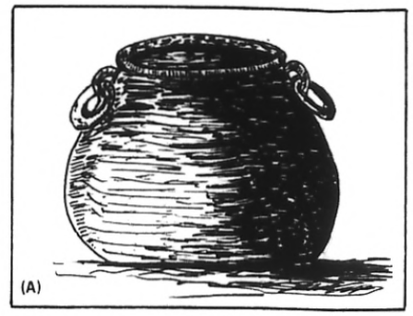
Mohammed Sharif, a production potter in Hebron, agrees to some extent with Balian's claim as to the adoption of outside methods and motifs for pottery production and decorating within the last 15 years. The commercial ware on sale in Hebron is known as 'China ware' simply, he says, because it is actually foreign to the area. But Sharif comes from a line of potters going back three generations. The Holy Land Pottery is run by Sharif's father and maintained by four brothers, each with separate skills concerning different steps in the production process. Though Sharif asserts that the business can be lucrative, he has decided to further his studies and is currently completing his fouth year at Bethlehem University. He expects his brothers to follow suit because, echoing the aspirations of many Palestinian youth, "at university one's interests are widened and pottery production can be a restrictive enterprise."

Sharif is quick to counter claims that pottery is new to Hebron and recounts his father's stories about the 'masters' of the trade in an earlier period. According to Sharif, Hebron has a tradition of production of large pots, water jugs being the specialty, made by men and fired in large updraft kilns which take 12 to 15 hours to mature with wood and combustible scraps as fuel. Some of these can still be seen just south of Hebron in al-Fahsah. To the northeast in the Jordan Valley, there are male potters still at work on functional ware for local consumption.

As the creation of the state of Israel and the ensuing wars disrupted all sectors of Palestinian life, potters have sought refuge farther and farther east. Following the 1948 war, many potters settled in the Jericho area. In one case, a Ramleh potter fled to Ramallah in 1948 only to have to seek refuge in the Jordan Valley in June, 1967.

Around Aqbat Jabr refugee camp, one can see abandoned workshops left by craftsmen originating in Ramleh and some probably now practicing their craft in Jordan. The other major centre for pottery production is in Gaza, which is known for its distinctive 'black' pottery produced in a high reduction atmosphere.

No one welcomes the demise of a rich heritage, however incongruous it is with changing times. From Um Abdallah, pursuing her craft with zest even in old age, to Mohammad Sharif, proud of his skill yet anxious to get on with his studies, Palestinian pottery represents a way of life and a valuable indication of a rich cultural heritage. Folk art like folklore, says Nabil Alqam, "is a distinguishing mark. It is what distinguishes us as Palestinians. We must remember our customs and proverbs, they are our identity."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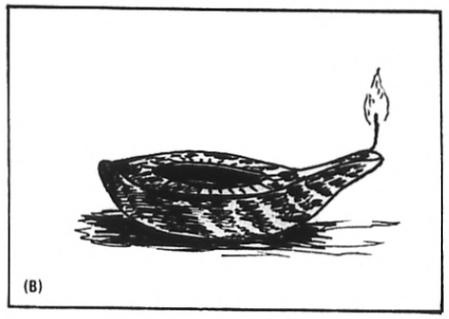
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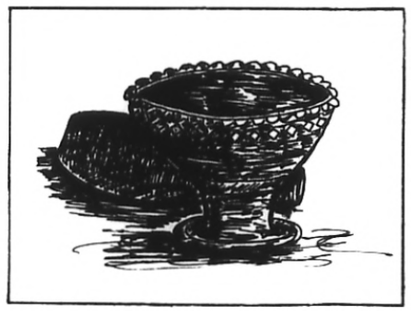


(D)

(E)

Functional traditional pottery once filled a vital role in domestic Palestinian life. Among the popular pots: *qidra* (A), used for cooking on an open fire; *siraij* (B), clay oil lamps; *kanoun* (C), clay braziers; *zir* (D), large water containers and *ibriq* (E), small water pitchers / Drawings by Majed Nakfory.

Palestinian pottery has gone through drastic changes due to technical innovation and market demand: like most commercial potters today, Mohammed Sharif (left) of Hebron uses an electric wheel. Highly decorative ware (right) has become part of significant tourist trade.

The Copts, an ancient Christian sect, have had a presence in the Old City for centuries. With a history of conflict with occupiers behind them, their main fight today is to get back their property confiscated by Israel in the early '70s.

Al Fajr's Awad Abdel Fattah reports.

Jerusalem's Copts Face Political Discrimination

The Coptic community in the Old City of Jerusalem has probably suffered from the effects of the 16 years of Israeli dominance more than any other ethnic community living there, community elders say. They base their claim on the fact that they are the only ethnic Christian community whose holy places have been controlled by Israel. The community's al-Sultan monastery was taken over by the Israeli authorities 13 years ago. It has not been returned, despite an Israeli court order that it be freed. Al-Sultan monastery includes architecturally important churches adorned with old Coptic drawings and writings on their gates. It adjoins the Copts' remaining base, the "Patriarchate Monastery."

Historic Presence

The Copts are separated from other Christian denominations by their fundamental belief in Monophysitism — a belief that Christ's nature is entirely divine, even though he took on an earthly and human body.

Like other ethnic communities of the Old City of Jerusalem, their historic roots in the country run back over several centuries. Originating in Egypt, they started to travel from there "after 400 AD," said Bishop Basilius, who has been in charge of the Coptic communities in the Near East since 1959. He added that Copts have been here since then "although their number went up and down in certain periods because of wars."

Like any other Christian community, they first came here to be close to the Christian holy places in the 'Holy City' of Jerusalem.

Bishop Basilius, speaking with a light Egyptian accent, a smile never leaving his face, talked enthusiastically about the Coptic experience during the Salah al-Din period in the 12th century and his defeat of the European Christian crusaders. "At that time the Copts fought beside their brethren — the Egyptians and the Arabs — against the crusaders," he explained.

By doing so they brought crusader wrath down on their heads and large numbers of Copts were expelled from the 'Holy City.' A number of their holy places were grabbed by the Europeans, among them the prominent al-Mullak monastery. It was this building which was renamed al-Sultan, after Salah al-Din, who returned Coptic holy places to the community after he defeated the crusaders and forced them out of the Holy City.

Harassment

From the time the crusaders, left until 1967, the Jerusalem Copts lived and practiced their religious rituals freely. "Partriarchate documents in Jerusalem which have been kept since then show no specific cases of harassment committed against us by foreign forces," said the bishop. That peace ended, for political reasons the bishop says, after the Israeli Army overran East Jerusalem.

Since then the Israelis have taken over the al-Sultan monastery, and in protest Coptic pilgrims from Egypt or other Arab countries have stopped coming to visit the holy places. The patriarchate has said it will not stop the protest "until our monastery is liberated," affirmed the bishop.

The monastery grab started in 1970, when scores of Israeli soldiers and policemen broke into the building at midnight, broke the locks and placed Israeli guards on duty there. "We could not understand this surprising and unjustified measure against a holy place," said the bishop excitedly. A few days later the Israeli authorities handed the monastery over to the Ethiopian Christians, who have also had an historical presence in the Old City but in much smaller numbers.

Bishop Basilius explained that the Israelis had two aims: "first," he said, "they wanted to deal a blow to the Copts, who they view as undesired because of their Egyptian links, and second they intended to improve Israeli-Ethiopian relations, from which they benefited very much on the economic and political levels."

After community representatives' mediation with Israeli officials failed to get the soldiers out of al-Sultan, they went to the Israeli High Court. The court ruled in favour of the Copts and rejected the allegations of the representatives of the army that the step was taken to maintain security and public order. The Israeli cabinet met after the court decision and announced a decision to keep the new *status quo*. Since then the Coptic community has been denied access to the seized monastery and therefore all religious celebrations of feasts have been cancelled by the patriarchate in protest.

The al-Sultan monastery incident was not the first anti-Coptic incident. Shortly before the Israelis took over, the bishop remembers, crosses on gravestones in the community's cemetery were smashed by unknown people. Israeli police did not investigate the incident, Copts charge.

Nor was the grab the last incident. Three years ago the Israelis made an attempt to grab two plots of land amounting to four dunums located outside Jerusalem on the road to Bethlehem. They were saved by the community after the High Court issued an order stopping the confiscation process.

Entrance to the Coptic Patriarchate, base for Jerusalem's Coptic community / ST photo

Inside the Patriarch Monastery where the Coptic community's school is located, open to children from the city's other Christian and Muslim communities. /ST photo

Freeze

The 2000-strong Jerusalem Coptic community's plans to build a cultural centre, with schools and clubs, has been impeded by the Israelis. According to the representatives of the community they presented the plan to the Israelis seven years ago. After a long battle to meet all local requirements, the Israelis came back with the answer that the army had vetoed the plans.

The community had purchased land for the cultural centre in city suburbs in the time of Jordanian rule, but no permit had been issued by 1967. "In fact," said the school headmistress, "it is a deliberate process. They don't want us to develop and progress." She added, "apparently, our mere presence in the Old City is a source of worry and fear for them."

Bishop Basilius expresses some wonderment at the continued harassments and obstacles place in the way of the community by the Israelis. "We have not done anything against the Israelis," he remarked, "and we did not do anything malicious against others."

After 1948

The Jerusalem community monasteries were the places to which hundreds of Copts went when they fled with the tens of thousands of Palestinians from towns and villages within what became the 1948 borders of Israel during the war. As with other communities, some of the fleeing families stayed in Jerusalem while others left for other countries under the pressure of growing housing problems. Apart from the 2000 Copts, most of whom live in various parts of East Jerusalem, there are 3000 still living in other parts of the country.

National identity is not a problem for most Copts. "About 85 percent of the Copts are Palestinians as they were born in Palestine," Bishop Basilius stated unequivocally. "We are an integral part of the Palestinian people." The school headmistress told *Al Fajr* that her family fled Jaffa in the 1948 war. "So we have suffered the same displacement which others went through in Palestine," she remarked.

Education

The schools of the Coptic community are not restricted to children of the community. Of the 650 pupils, only half or so are Copts. Others come from different Palestinian Muslim and Christian communities.

The representatives of the Coptic community are proud of the fact that their schools were the first to open and operate in the Old City after the 1948 war. The principal of the school explained that children of other communities came to Coptic schools which "tried to lessen the effects of the war on schoolchildren."

The spoken language of the community is Arabic. Most use the Palestinian dialect. Religious functionaries who were sent from Egypt not long ago to the Old City retain their own dialect.

Interestingly, the Coptic language is not included in the curriculum of Coptic schools. It is only taught to seminary children and used in prayers. Not every member of the community knows how to speak Coptic.

The schools of the community are completely independent educationally. They have no relations with the Israeli education ministry. The appointment and firing of teachers are in the hands of the school administration. But a solution to the problem of overcrowdedness in school is not in the hands of the community. A few rooms have been added to the schools since their establishment. For a radical improvement the Copts await a change in the stand of the Israeli government regarding the cultural centre permit. Bishop Basilius concluded, "We will not despair. We will continue to persist in the Holy City and reject any pressure on us."

PALESTINE AND LITERATURE

SAMI KILANI: 'THE CRIME IS WRITING POETRY'

The military court in Nablus is still considering the prosecution of Sami Muhammad Zeid Kilani, a poet and short story writer. His charge is — writing poetry. Kilani was born in Ya'abad in 1950. In 1974 he graduated with a degree in mathematics from Jordan University. From 1977 to 1980 he was in various Israeli jails on charges of being member of a "hostile organisation." Sami is a teacher at Najah University, Nablus, and he is an activist in the employees union.

Kilani has published several stories and poems in the local press and two literary collections of short stories: *Akhdar Ya Zatar* (Green, Oh Thyme) and *Wad al Az al-Din al-Qassam*, (A Promise to Az al-Din al-Qassam).

Because he is a Palestinian teacher and intellectual and declares his open opposition to the occupation, the Israeli authorities have him under close scrutiny. Uri Orr, the former commander of the central region, issued a special restriction order under which Kilani could not leave Ya'abad without a permit from his office. Kilani has to notify the local military governor of any change of address and report daily to the police station in Jenin.

Earlier this year, Kilani was held in al-Fara'a detention centre, near Jenin, for allegedly ignoring several summonses from Major Moshe Eliad. Kilani denied the charge, saying he received no summons from the Israeli officer, who is the Jenin military governor's advisor for Arab affairs. This officer achieved personal notoriety following publication of a letter he wrote to Israel's police director asking him to "kick the ass" of a Jenin lawyer.

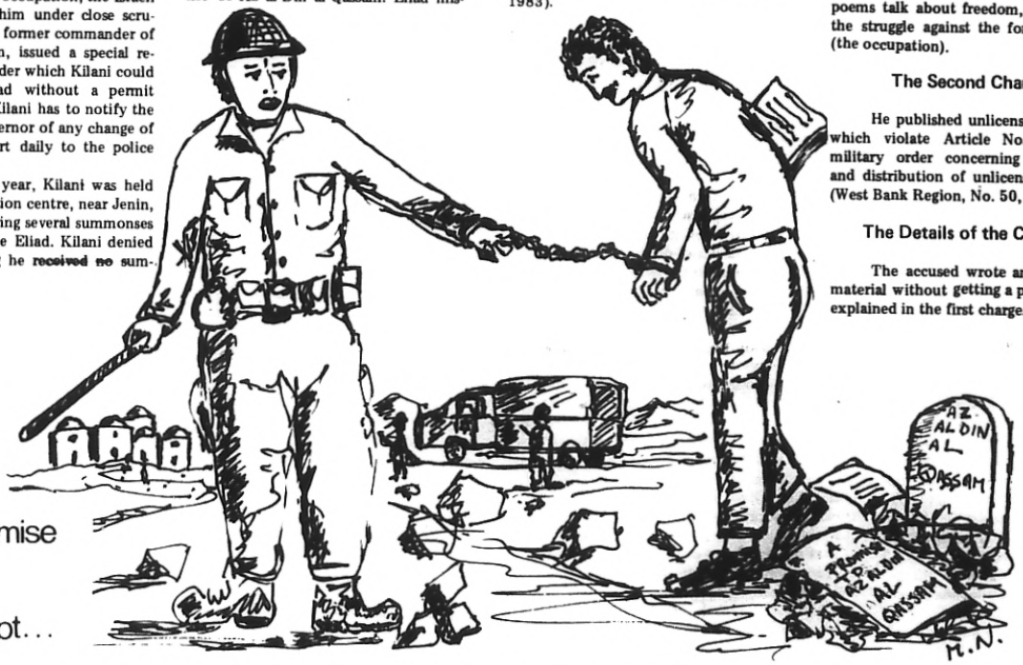
In Fara'a, Kilani was interrogated by police officer Avi Cohen, who insulted, beat and threatened him. Sami reports he tried to force him to sign a statement in Hebrew — threatening to hand him over to *mukhabarat* (secret service) "interrogators" if he did not sign. Later in his detention a second officer intervened and Kilani was allowed to write a statement in Arabic.

Moshe Eliad, who formulated the charges, also wrote an additional report. He has a BA degree in Middle East history. He spoke in his report of the life of Az al-Din al-Qassam. Eliad mistranslated excerpts of the banned poem.

Major Eliad talks about Az al-Din al-Qassam... "This man's name is connected with Ya'abad (the poet's village) because he was killed on its land. In local Arabic literature he is the symbol of rebellion and resistance against the foreign regime (meaning occupation).

Major Eliad claimed in his report that the poet addressed his readers directly and he does not only quote Qassam's words. He also talks about Camp David and "uses sharp terms."

It is difficult to understand Eliad's claims because it seems that his main concern is to "kick asses" and not to read poetry. The question still is: is writing poetry a justification for arresting a man, beating and humiliating and taking him to court? (Translation: Zu HaDerekh (This is The Road), August 1983).



The promise is still being kept...

Sami Kilani's Charges

The First Charge

Incitement, according to Article No. 7 of the Military Order concerning banning inciting and hostile activities (West Bank Region No. 101, 1967)

The Details of the Charge:

The accused distributed material whose content would incite the population of the region in a way which threatens safety and the public order. After searching his house on January 20, 1983, a poetry collection was found entitled *A Promise to Az al-Din al-Qassam*. The accused published it and distributed copies in the region. His poems talk about freedom, victory and the struggle against the foreign regime (the occupation).

The Second Charge

He published unlicensed materials which violate Article No. 2 of the military order concerning publication and distribution of unlicensed material (West Bank Region, No. 50, 1967).

The Details of the Charge:

The accused wrote and published material without getting a permit, as was explained in the first charge.

News From the Palestinian Literary World

The Palestinians Are Victims of Exploitation

The Palestinians are Victims of Exploitation is the title of a book by Desmond Stewart which was published after his death in 1981. The work is the product of two journeys made by the author to the West Bank and the Galilee. Stewart made his first journey during the research he did on the life of Theodor Hertzl, the founder of the Zionist movement in last century. Stewart came to live in Jerusalem to write his book and visited East Jerusalem during the period in which the assassination attempts were made on the mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and al-Bireh.

On his second visit, to the Galilee, he heard about land grabbing there and in the West Bank. In his book, Morris presents interviews with Palestinians and Israelis from different social levels alongside his personal reflections and rich experiences

Stewart was known for his concern with Middle East affairs until his death in mid-1981. He wrote on the history of the Middle East, Arabic novels, theatre and poetry. He translated much poetry.

Days Lost Behind Bars

Days Lost Behind Bars is a new poetry collection by Palestinian prisoner Mohammed Ahmad Abu Laban. Ibrahim Alam, the Palestinian short story writer, wrote the introductin of the book, in which he talked about the importance of the prisons in reflecting and showing aspects of the Palestinian cause. *Days Lost Behind Bars* is the first poetry collection published by a serving Palestinian prisoner.

Student Movement

The Student Movement: Theoretical Dimensions and Practices of Various Groups and Countries is a new book by Walid Salem, a student at Bir Zeit University. The book contains five chapters in which the author discusses the status of student movements and their experiences in various countries.

The latest issue of the Spanish literary magazine in Madrid *Noweba Istafia* includes a complete translation of Mahmoud Darwish's poem "Beirut."

Lectures on Palestine Studies

Lectures on Palestine Studies is a new book written by Mohammed Mahdi, a lecturer at Hebron University. The book consists of four chapters and a supplement of documents.

The Old Coat

The Old Coat is a newly published collection of nine short stories by Subhi Shahrouri, a Gaza author. He has previously published all his work in Palestinian literary magazines. Shahrouri began writing in the 1960s in *Al Ufoq al-Jadid* (New Horizon) magazine.

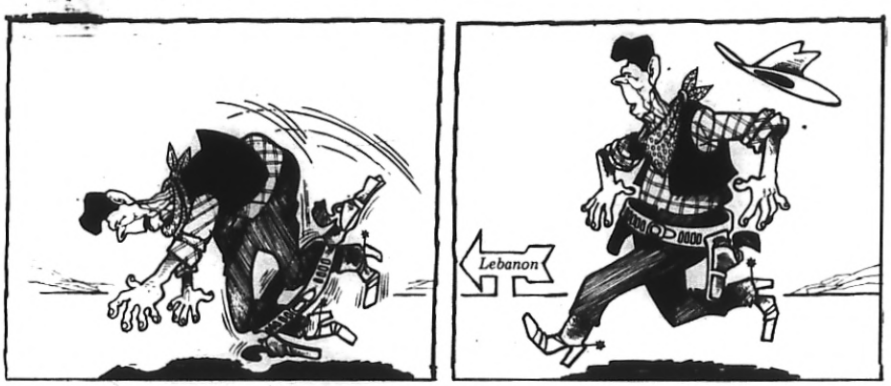
A Song About Sabra and Shatila

Cortair, a famous Argentinean singer, recently released a new album which includes one song about the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

Cortair first performed the song in Buenos Aires, the Argentinean capital, at a festival sponsored by the Arab community there:

Where was the sun
When the anger erupted in
Sabra and Shatila
Where is God
When innocents go
Doesn't he care?
Where am I?
At a festival
Without feeling.
When I read the news
When I read the news
Where is the pride of men?

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



The heartbreaking fighting in Tripoli, the destruction of the Israeli military headquarters in Tyre and the tension between Syria and Israel and the US were frontpaged in the local press this week.

All three Palestinian dailies concentrated on the Tripoli battles. Detailed accounts of the fighting and official and public protest got top billing every day. They also published ads of protest and denunciation about the "attacks on innocent Palestinian civilians and in total support for PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat."

Al Mithaq biweekly, which has been critical of Arafat and has shown some sympathy to the dissidents led by Abu Musa, toned down its comment in the November 9 issue. It made neither clear criticism of Arafat nor sympathy for Abu Musa. The paper's lead story denounced the "Palestinian interfighting."

America's Arabs Are Planning

Not a month goes by without a meeting of the Arabian Gulf countries to strengthen their political, military and economic cooperation.

If this coordination means America's Arabs are taking advantage of their oil wealth and Arab setbacks to go along with America's policies, the other part (of the nation), the Arab nationalists, are divided and extremely weak.

There are major differences in the nationalist bloc, which was hit hard when one of its leading members failed to support the Lebanese and Palestinian people during the war last year. Above all, they tried to interfere in the internal affairs of the Palestinians, which will not help improve relations among the different nationalist groups.

This division and Arab impotence is an open invitation for America's Arabs to strengthen their control and influence.

AL SHAAB
November 3

The Conference Under A Cloud Of Threat

The reports on US Under-Secretary of State Eagelburger's mission in Israel and (US President) Reagan's statement in which he linked Lebanon and Grenada and considered the Lebanese nationalists' demands as an attempt to join Lebanon to the Soviet bloc all indicate that Washington is not concerned for the success of the Geneva reconciliation conference but is holding onto its plan that will give the Phalangists dictatorial powers in Lebanon — in order to serve American and Israeli interests.

For this reason, America and Israel are taking an indirect part in the Geneva negotiations by threatening to close Awali river passages (between occupied South Lebanon and the north) and by marshalling the American fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. At the same time they are trying to cover up the internal causes of the conflict and portraying the Lebanese nationalist movement as an instrument of Syria.

The dispute in Lebanon is between those who want to keep Lebanon Arab and sovereign and those who want to make it a puppet of the US and Israel. It is ridiculous for Reagan to claim that his support for the Phalange is aimed at preventing the country from becoming a member of the Soviet bloc.

Everyone knows that the Lebanese nationalists are asking for democratic gains and are holding out for their right to independence and a guarantee for democracy and equality, rejecting minority rule in Lebanon. Reagan's support of minority fascist rule in Lebanon refutes his claims that the White House is concerned for democracy.

If Washington and Israel are actively supporting the Phalangists in Geneva, the Arab countries which are keeping quiet about the threats of Syria and the nationalists are in reality supporting these threats and encouraging them.

AL TALIA
November 3

The People Will Not Sleep

Damned are those who plotted to shell our camps in north Lebanon and those who pulled the trigger on our people in Nahr al-Bared and Baddawi refugee camps under the cover of reforming the movement or protecting the the legitimate leadership.

At the same time, imperialist American threats are being directed at those nationalist, particularly the PLO, the Lebanese nationalist movement and Syria. We see and do not believe what these nationalists and progressive forces are committing against our people in the camps. We condemn this crime which is not serving anyone except our enemies and the traitors who are now talking about their concern for the Palestinian decision and representation.

We urge those warring parties to cease all the crimes they are committing against our people. It was not strange for the Palestinian camps to be hit by Arab regimes or those who claim to be nationalists, but it is a serious crime when the Palestinians shell the camps of their own people. They should change this approach immediately and adopt a new approach through democratic dialogue before it is too late. They should not forget that history is watching them and so are the masses.

AL MITHAQ
November 9

The Lebanon Quagmire And The Price Paid

The occupation of a country cannot go on without cost. This logic has been proven in all countries occupied by foreign forces.

Recent developments in Lebanon indicate that the Lebanese are sick of the foreign presence in their land and began to express this by attacking foreign installations. They are doing this to remind these foreigners that they are unwanted "guests".

Foreign presence in Lebanon did not take shape at Lebanon's request but came in the form of an invader, pointing its gun in the face of the Lebanese to destroy their unity and divide their land. So the Lebanese had to prove that this presence on Lebanese soil will be costly.

The result is that continued foreign presence in Lebanon will mean increased armed attacks against it. There are many storms still waiting to blow in the face of the non-Arab foreign presence in Lebanon.

AL FAJR
November 5

What Being Lost Is

We pity those who have no wisdom and who light a fire to burn themselves. We feel sorry for the country and its people who have been waiting and still are. A homeland has been lost, and many young people are causing their own death. Many years have passed, and hopes built for these young men are wasted elsewhere and for the wrong goal.

We do not worship individuals, but any nation has specific goals; otherwise no dialogue could have made sense and no justice would prevail. We had hopes and ambitions; the Palestinian opinion should have been broadened in order to prevent bloodshed and protect the family from further dispersion.

Everytime someone wanted to change something according to his moods, he found the door open in front of him because he will find those ignorant ones who follow him without thinking and do not see the link between what they do and the whole problem. This is what loss is. It is darkness in a period. Our cause is going through very difficult times, and its existence is threatened.

AL QUDS
November 7

The Revolution Which Decided The Future

The Soviet Union celebrates today the anniversary of the October socialist revolution led by Lenin and his Bolshevik party, along with thousands of working people and supporters of peace, freedom and progress throughout the world.

Even the enemies of the Soviet Union and socialism admit that this revolution was like an earthquake and a turning point in the history of humanity, from the period of slavery and capitalistic exploitation to the period of socialism, which was brought about by the October Revolution.

We do not exaggerate when we say that history since the October Revolution has witnessed increased Soviet participation in world affairs to defeat colonialism and foil colonial attempts to dominate the world. In this period, especially when the American administration is waging wars against the people of the Middle East and Latin America, the Soviet Union is giving full support to these people and trying to protect them. The more the imperialists, including the Israeli leaders, continue their propaganda war against the Soviet Union, the more we feel we should support it. We are strong and gaining strength because the Soviet Union is getting stronger.

While the American imperialists are losing control gradually, the Soviet Union is getting more victorious. The great dawn caused by the October Revolution over one-third of the world is spreading to the whole world.

AL ITTIHAD
November 7

West Bankers Back Leadership, Want End to Fighting

"The victims of the bombardments around Tripoli, specifically the Palestinian camps, are men, women, children and well trained PLO cadres." *Al Fajr* went out onto the streets of the West Bank, November 6, to gather opinions on what is happening in and around Nahr al-Bared and al-Baddawi camps. There was almost universal denunciation of the bloodshed among the Palestinians by Arab and Palestinian brothers; demands for an immediate stop to the fighting in Tripoli and around the Palestinian camps; denunciation of Arab silence; declaration of absolute support for the PLO and its legitimate leadership and rejection of all attempts to control the PLO.

Daoud Abu Ghazaleh, owner of "The World of Light and Sound Shop" who served seven years imprisonment for membership of one of the PLO organisations from 1976 to 1983 said, "Every Palestinian denounces the internecine fighting on the Arab land of Lebanon. This fighting aims at killing the PLO's political achievements before and after the departure of the PLO from Beirut and in particular the world's recognition that the PLO is the primary and basic element in the Middle East conflict.

"The United States is now attempting, after its failure to destroy the PLO militarily, to strike at it by using the reactionary Arab regimes which disguise their real faces with national and progressive masks. The Arab masses in the occupied territories are the PLO masses. The PLO is not impotent to answer this galvanised iron-tin double by striking against the regimes which aim at hurting the PLO."

Abu Ghazaleh raised the question: what do the Syrians want from the PLO? "Do they want to arrest Yasir Arafat? Do they imagine that the Palestinian and Arab masses will remain silent?" Abu Ghazaleh asserted that solving the problems within the PLO cannot be carried by force of arms but only through the PLO's democratic process.

Ali Da'oud Bashir, who works as a driver in Jerusalem, told *Al Fajr* that the fighting in Tripoli caused a strong shock to the Palestinian people. "I wonder at the silence of the Arab countries who are frightened to disturb the tranquility in their countries, controlled by weapons and fire power.

"I wonder at the Arab armies' attitude when they do not revolt against the scandalous acts committed by Arab leaders. As a Palestinian, I demand an immediate cease-fire, that both sides use political dialogue to solve their problems and that they not be subsumed under the will of any Arab countries, including Syria. I demand the Palestinian leaders re-evaluate their policies regarding the Arab regimes." Bashir pointed out that there is a "well-planned conspiracy, sponsored by the US and Arab regimes, to destroy the PLO."

Mohammed Ishtieh, the secretary of the workers union at Bir Zeit University, told *Al Fajr* that what is happening in Tripoli has "by-passed the stage of internal fighting. Our brothers in Baddawi and Nahr al-Bared camps are defending themselves and their existence. We in the occupied territories are torn to pieces by this pain, and we denounce the conspiracy committed by imperialism using Arab hands. We demand an immediate end to Syrian aggression against the Palestinian people and its cause; we demand our brothers not use force and stop the bloodshed — to spare it for the battle with our main enemy." Ishtieh added that what is happening in Tripoli "causes frustration for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. These blows could have negative implications for the PLO."

Rabah Jaber, a senior student at Bir Zeit University, said, "I denounce strongly the fighting and demand the use of a democratic solution within the PLO framework. I demand an immediate end to the fighting, especially as the victims are children, women and the old, as well as well-trained Palestinian cadres."

Shukri Taha, Jerusalem bookshop owner, told *Al Fajr*, "The fighting in Tripoli will increase the tension in the Palestinian cause and impede attempts to find a solution to it. The fighting will perpetuate the occupation."

A lawyer in Jerusalem who declined to give his name said, "We will not forgive this attack on us and the bloodshed of the Palestinian people. This is not the battle of the Palestinians."

Hussein Taziz, owner of pharmacy in Jerusalem, told *Al Fajr*, "The fighting caused general frustration among the Palestinians in the occupied territories." He added that all sides are responsible for the fighting. Taziz stated, "We in the occupied territories support the PLO, and we are against the oppression levied against the Palestinian people. We are not herds of sheep."

Farouq Salfiti, who was administratively detained several times, expressed his strong regret at the fighting in Tripoli. He said that "all efforts should be directed to serving the Palestinian people and to maintaining the unity between allies." Salfiti demanded an immediate cease-fire and a start to dialogue on the basis of the recommendations of the recently constituted reconciliation committee.

Salfiti said the residents of the occupied territories appeal to all warring groups to stop fighting. Salfiti asserted, "The PLO will by-pass this agony and emerge stronger."

Shopowner Salah Halhouli told *Al Fajr*, "We do not have any alternative but to support the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We denounce all attempts to destroy the PLO."

Shaker Abu Irmaileh, vice-secretary of the carpenters union, told *Al Fajr*, "What is happening in Tripoli is a conspiracy against the Palestinians in which all Arab countries are participating, either directly or indirectly. My personal analysis of what is happening is that the Syrians want to destroy PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat."

Abu Irmaileh stated that Yasir Arafat reached his position as PLO Executive Committee Chairman according to the will of the Palestinian people and not by the will of the Arab countries."

Abu Irmaileh said "23 unions in Jerusalem alone support Yasir Arafat as the chairman of the Palestinian revolution."

Statements signed by the West Bank professional unions denouncing the fighting in Tripoli were published in local West Bank papers, November 8.

West Bank mayors and the heads of several institutions issued a statement the same day expressing support for PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's leadership and demanding an immediate end to the fighting in north Lebanon. Other statements by a number of West Bank and Gaza individuals and organisations were published throughout the last week.

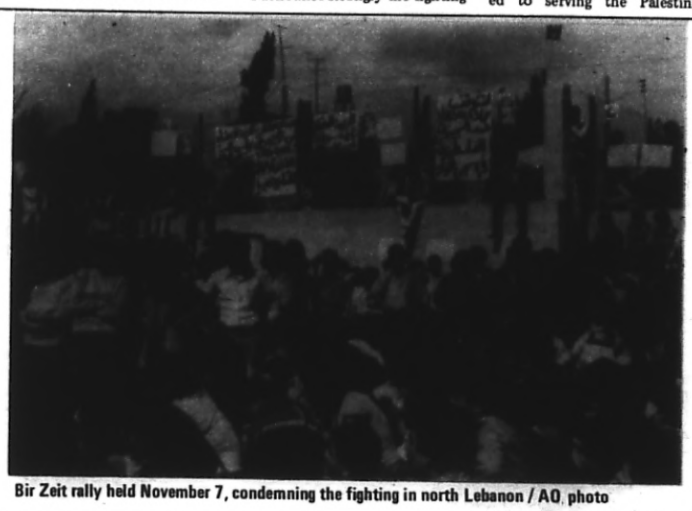
Al Ittihad Arabic daily, the organ of the Israeli Communist Party, published, November 9, names of local writers, journalists and artists among the thousands of Arab intellectuals who sent a telegramme to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad demanding he "stop the massacres immediately. Take your hands off the PLO and its leader," the telegramme said.

A number of West Bank journalists and artists were added to the list, November 10.

In Nazareth, the Progressive Movement issued a statement, November 7, denouncing the attack on Nahr al-Bared and Baddawi refugee camps and urged international public opinion to intervene to stop the massacre.

The mayor of the Galilee town of Shafa 'Amr, Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, chairman of the Committee of Arab Local Council Heads, denounced the attack, calling it "an attempt to liquidate the Palestinians."

The Progressive national movements in the Galilee, the Triangle and Naqab issued condemnations of the attack and noted "the Syrian regime did not move when Israel invaded Lebanon last year."



Bir Zeit rally held November 7, condemning the fighting in north Lebanon / AO photo

Bethlehem U. Student's Council Released

All eight members of Bethlehem University student council were released from jail, November 6, on personal bail after their lawyer applied to the Israeli military court in Ramallah for their release.

The lawyer argued that there was little evidence against his clients. "The fact that there was a cultural exhibition in the university does not mean that they are responsible for it," he said.

The presiding judge said that if the police wanted to resume questioning, it could be done while the council members are outside prison.

Jerusalem lawyer Jawad Boulus, who represented the students, told *Al Fajr* that he does not think that his clients will be charged. He added that there was no evidence to support the police allegations that they were responsible for the exhibit.

The student council were detained, October 28, after Israeli soldiers raided the exhibit. A three-day strike followed the students' detention.

On the third day of the strike, after clashes between Israeli soldiers and students, the military authorities ordered the university closed for two months.

continued from page 1

Unity Decision

tween Arafat and representatives of Tripoli's main fighting forces. The militiamen, representatives of small Islamic military forces, asked Arafat to save the city from destruction. Arafat said he understood their demand.

After the last round of fighting in Tripoli between Lebanese factions three weeks ago, only Islamic fighting groups remained in the city, the main one being the Islamic unity grouping. Communist and non-religious nationalist Lebanese forces were driven out of Tripoli.

On the diplomatic front, efforts were made at various levels to defuse the situation. Algeria, Democratic Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council all sent delegations to the Syrian capital asking Hafez al-Assad to intervene to bring the fighting to an end. The Saudi monarch, King Fahd, opened a personal hot-line to Damascus for his own mediation attempts.

Inside the PLO, the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine jointly condemned the fighting. In a statement published, November 9, in *Al-Mujahed*, an Algerian newspaper, Nayef Hawatmeh, DFLP general-secretary, stated that his organisation "will not permit the establishment of a new PLO to serve political axes other than Palestinian." He added that the Palestinian people will not permit the breaking of the PLO.

Arab countries' delegations visited Syria to exert pressure on it in order to stop the battles.

The Soviet Union made a direct request to Syria to intervene to end the division and breaking of the PLO. The 10 EEC countries expressed concern over events in north Lebanon. Other Arab countries made statements in support of the PLO.

The Fatah Central Committee met, November 8, in Tunis to discuss the situation. At the end of their meeting, they expressed full support for Arafat and rejected Arab interference in Palestinian decision-making and attempts to split the PLO and create an alternative. The committee also decided to expel 10 members, all leading dissidents, from the organisation.

WEEKLY REVIEW

November 2, 1983

PLO OFFICE IN HOLLAND

THE HAGUE — Holland's minister of commerce said his government has given permission to open a PLO office in The Hague.

EXPLOSIVES NEAR RAILWAY STATION

Israel Radio said an explosive device was discovered and defused in a bus stop near the Jerusalem railway station.

ISRAEL STOPS PRISONER EXCHANGE TALKS

LONDON — Palestinian sources in London confirmed that Israel has stopped talks under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross to exchange prisoners with the PLO. The sources said the talks started three weeks ago.

The sources said Israel made this sudden decision after the talks seemed to have reached positive conclusions. The PLO has expressed willingness to cooperate with the Red Cross and exchange prisoners, they added.

OLIVE TREES BURNT

NABLUS — Almost 1000 olive trees were destroyed in a blaze at Tal village, near Nablus. The fire was contained by the villagers.

PLO OFFICE IN PORTUGAL

LISBON — A PLO spokesman said that a PLO office will open as soon as the Portuguese authorities specify the office's diplomatic status.

NO EXIT FOR SHAKA'A

NABLUS — The Israeli military government banned dismissed Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka'a from travelling to the US for medical treatment or for participating in ceremonies held in his honour in Livonia, Michigan, where he was to have received the key to the city from its council, Israel Radio said.

INSURANCE PLAN APPROVED

JERUSALEM — The Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union received a letter from the Arab Hotel Owners Association accepting a proposed health insurance plan. The association will contribute JD1 for each employee every month.

The letter also said the hotel owners will not fire any employee in light of the bad economic situation except in "extraordinary cases." It also recommended that the hotels that did not pay the '13th month' bonus to employees do so immediately.

QALQILIYA SCHOOL COMPUTER

QALQILIYA — Students at al-Sa'adieh Secondary School here are using a computer to solve mathematical problems. The school is also using video-taped material in class. The equipment was contributed by the parents' council in the city.

HOMES AND STORES RAIDED

HEBRON — Israeli customs officials raided a number of stores and homes and arrested owners on charges of possessing gold or non-payment of taxes.

November 3, 1983

FUEL PRICES UP

Petrol prices went up by 15 percent and home fuel up 20 percent. One litre of 91 octane petrol now costs IS51, and 96 octane IS59.

BETHLEHEM U. CLOSURE CONDEMNED

The Committee in Solidarity with Bir Zeit University issued a statement strongly condemning the Israeli military government's decision to close Bethlehem University for two months. They called the closure "illegal."

HEBRON STORES CLOSED

HEBRON — Hebron store owners have been subjected to regular harassment by Israeli tax officials who are watching the stores to find out the quantity of goods which come in or leave the stores. Doctors as well were summoned to the military headquarters and ordered to pay heavy taxes.

Many store owners in the city were forced to close their shops because they were not able to pay the taxes or stay in business.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT RELEASED

Widad Mifleh, from Nazareth, a student at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, was found not guilty by a Jerusalem magistrates court of possessing "anti-Israel" material.

other recently built. The demolition order applies to both stories.

SIX ANSAR PRISONERS KILLED

An Israeli spokesman said six prisoners from Ansar camp in South Lebanon were buried alive during an attempted escape. The spokesman said two bulldozers were working on one part of the camp after many prisoners were moved to a new compound. One of them fell into a tunnel in which the six men were digging.

Two other prisoners, in a different tunnel, were shot when Israeli troops found them in a search of the camp after the collapse.

SETTLEMENT BUDGET INTACT

Israeli finance minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad said the money allocated for settlements will not be touched in spite of budget cuts.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS UP

TEL AVIV — Insurance officials at the Israeli finance ministry and heads of insurance companies agreed to increase auto insurance premiums by 15 percent as of

Bethlehem University library. The Committee in Solidarity with Bir Zeit University condemned November 3 the military's two-month closure of the university. On November 6 the Israeli military court in Ramallah ordered that eight members of the university's student council be released following their detention October 27.

ARAB LAND CONFISCATED

One thousand six hundred dunums were grabbed in Yanoun, near Nablus, by the Israeli military government, according to *Agence France Press*.

STONE THROWING CONTINUES

Israel Radio reported several incidents of stone throwing have been reported throughout the West Bank. An Israeli woman was injured when an Israeli bus was stoned near Hebron. A curfew was reimposed on Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem, hours after it had been lifted when camp residents demonstrated against the Israeli occupation.

November 4, 1983

POST-ELECTION DESTRUCTION

JERUSALEM — The Teddy Kollek municipality in Jerusalem warned Shehadeh Abu Rmeleh, from Silwan, a Jerusalem suburb, that his home is to be demolished because he does not have a building permit.

Abu Rmeleh said he was given permission to build by Ibrahim Kheila, deputy mayor in the engineering department and head of the building committee, during the campaign for the municipal elections. Now that the elections are over the same man ordered to house be demolished.

Abu Rmeleh's house has two stories, one old and the next month. The companies asked for a 30 percent hike.

HIGH COURT DELIBERATES ON COMPANY CASE

JERUSALEM — The Israeli high court deliberated for 20 minutes, November 3, the case by the Hebron Bus Company against the Israeli government concerning the take over of the town's central bus station.

The justices agreed to consider the bus company as a party in this case despite attempts by the defence ministry to prevent this. Company officials hope the court will decide the case in its next session, which has not been scheduled yet.

DOCUMENTARY POLYTECHNIC

HEBRON — The documentary "Beirut: Our Last Tent" was shown at the Polytechnic Institute in Hebron. The event was well attended by the institute's students.

WOMEN SIT-IN AT RED CROSS

JERUSALEM — Palestinian women observed a 2-hour sit-in yesterday at the Red Cross building in Jerusalem to protest the bad treatment of women political prisoners at Neve Tertza prison. The Palestinian women were joined by Israeli women who expressed solidarity with the Palestinians' demands.

Lawyer Lea Tsemel spoke at the sit-in on the bad treatment by the jail administration of the detainees. She said the Israeli military has recently banned visitation to the prison by the families of the detainees and confiscated the books and private belongings of the women.

The mothers of detainees have urged the Red Cross to visit the prisoners and find out about their conditions.

Palestinian women prisoners at Neve Tertza have refused for several months to work in the jail kitchen or to serve their jailers.

NETANYA EXPLOSION

TEL AVIV — A small explosive device went off on Natanya beach, north of Tel Aviv. An Israeli police source said no damage was done.

November 5, 1983

YOUTHS SENTENCED

TAIBEH — Seven youths from Taibeh, in the Triangle, were given 18 month jail sentences and fined IS30,000 each for taking part in demonstrations commemorating the first anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres and for throwing stones at Israeli police. Five of the youth had already spent 46 day in detention.

STUDENT FINED

JERUSALEM — The Gaza military court fined Maleihah Massoud, student at Banaat Jabaliya Secondary School, IS10,000 for taking part in an anti-Israeli demonstration at the end of the last school year.

MAYOR SILENCED

The dismissed mayor of Qalqiliya, Haj Amin Nasser, who has been under town arrest for more than three years, has had his telephone disconnected on orders from the Israeli military authorities in the city.

SETTLEMENT NEAR HEBRON

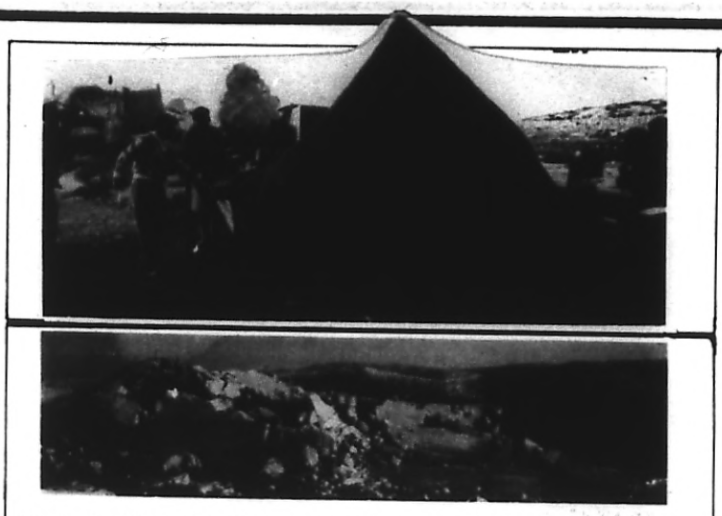
TEL AVIV — The Israeli *Al Hamishmar* newspaper quoted the president of the Israeli farmers union as saying that his union is planning to establish a new agricultural settlement near Hebron. Eighty families will live in the Hebron-Arad road area settlement, the paper said.

STUDENTS PROTEST EXAM CHANGES

JERUSALEM — *Tawjihi* students in the West Bank complained that the new exam regulations are bound to hurt them. The new regulations state that the passing grade for all subjects will be 50 percent as of the academic year 1984-85. Currently it is 25 percent in two subjects and 40 percent in others.

ARAB LAND CONFISCATED

WEST BANK — Four thousand dunums of land in the village of Jeeb, near Tulkarm, were grabbed by the Israeli military government. The area, southwest of the village, was taken under the pretext that it is public property. The expropriated lands are the areas of Jabal Saris, Kurm Abid and Khalat Hilal.



Friends and neighbours of Isma'il Hamdan help put up tents on the site of his demolished home. The Issawiyya house was destroyed by Israeli forces November 6 on the pretext that the owner had no building permit/ SG photo

November 6, 1983

PHARMACY CLOSED

ANABTA — The Israeli military health official ordered Anabta's only pharmacy closed, claiming it does not have a pharmacist in charge.

DOCTORS COMPLAIN ABOUT SALARIES

WEST BANK — Doctors working in the West Bank continue to complain that their salaries are gradually losing value. Specialists who used to receive a salary equivalent to JD 210 now get only JD137, spokespeople reported.

PRISONERS REBEL IN JAIL

TEL AVIV — The Israeli *HaAretz* newspaper said yesterday that the jail adminstration in Neve Tertza called the special prison guard units to quell a rebellion by 30 Palestinian women prisoners last Monday. The paper said tear gas was used to control the situation.

It said the prison officials kept the issue secret until last Friday, when a lawyer visited the jail.

The disturbances started when prison guards started removing the books from the dining room to another place.

FOUR NEW SCHOOLS IN HEBRON

HEBRON — Hebron educators report that four new schools will be built soon. They are planned by the Muslim *waqf*, the education department and UNRWA.

JOURNALIST BANNED FROM GAZA

JERUSALEM — Bashir Barghouti, editor of *Al Talia*, was given an order banning him from entering the Gaza Strip.

BETHLEHEM STUDENTS RELEASED

The Israeli military court in Ramallah ordered that the eight student members of the Bethlehem University student council be released. The order came after the court failed to find enough evidence to implicate them.

24,000 SETTLERS IN GAZA

There are now 24,000 Israeli settlers in the Gaza Strip, according to official figures released today. This is half the number planned by the Gush Emunim settler movement, which is complaining that the Israeli government is responsible for the shortfall in the planned 60,000.

FISHERMEN COMPLAIN OF RESTRICTIONS

GAZA — Fishermen in Gaza complained that the area the Israeli military government has allowed them to use is too small to meet their needs. An official in the Gaza Fisheries Union, Rajab Hassi, said there are almost 700 boats working in the fishing business restricted to a 24 kilometre wide and 18 kilometre deep area in the sea. He said a number of boats were grounded by the Israeli military because they allegedly violated the limited area for fishing.

Hassi said a United Nations committee met with the fishermen in Gaza, and instead of offering them help and considering their complaints the UN group offered to buy the ships. The fishermen feared this step is an attempt to destroy them, he added.

November 7, 1983

STUDENTS BURN ISRAELI CAR

GAZA — A crowd of students attacked a private car owned by an Israeli policeman and set fire to it. Israel Radio said the students overturned the car and burned it as its owner stood by. Israeli soldiers moved in to save the Israeli, according to the radio report. Six of the students were arrested.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT BRICK FACTORY

MaAriv afternoon Hebrew paper said attempts by ultra-right Kiryat Arba settlers to build a brick factory near their settlement and adjacent to a mosque is causing great discomfort among city residents. Muslim religious leaders in the city said the factory will be a "nuisance to the mosque activities."

ISRAELI SOLDIER HIT BY STONE

An Israeli woman soldier was hit by a stone as the bus she was riding in came under attack near Gilo settlement, south of Jerusalem.

NEW HEAD FOR BZU RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

BIR ZEIT — Dr Kamal Abd al-Fatah was appointed head of the Bir Zeit University research department, replacing Dr Bakr Abu Kishk, who remained as Dean of the College of Commerce. Dr Abd al-Fatah previously served as the head of the Middle East Studies department and Dean of the College of Arts at Bir Zeit. Dr Ali Jarbawi was appointed as head of the Middle East department.

November 8, 1983

PRIVATE TAXIS STYMIED

NABLUS — Nablus police issued a number of traffic tickets to city residents using private cars as taxis. Taxi owners in the city complain that these private operators were hurting their business.

HIGHWAY PIRACY

QALQILIYA — Unidentified assailants riding in a 1983-registered white Peugeot shot at the tyres of a car belonging to lawyer Hisham Nasr as it was travelling on the Qalqiliya-Kufr Qassem road and forced it to stop. The assailants then robbed those riding with Nasr of their money and wrist watches. Dr Basem Hashem was injured and taken to hospital.

MK REQUESTS PRISON PROBE

TEL AVIV — Israeli Knesset Member Shulamit Aloni urged an investigation of the teargassing of women prisoners at Neve Tertza prison, last week.

WORKERS FINED

HADERA — A civil court in Hadera fined three workers from Aqabb, near Jenin, IS5000 each for taking three boxes of oranges from a farm in 1976. The court rejected evidence by the workers showing that they had received permission from their foreman to take the oranges. The judge said they should have asked the farm owner for permission.

RESTRICTIONS

TULKARM — The Israeli authorities banned all travellers from Qalqiliya and Tulkarm from crossing the bridge into Jordan. No reason was given for the ban.

32 ANSAR PRISONERS RELEASED

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said 32 prisoners at Ansar detention centre in South Lebanon were released.

JENINIS TRAVEL

JENIN — The Israeli military removed the month-old travel ban on Jenin residents.

WAQF SUPPORTS HIGH RENT

JENIN — Jenin store owners who recently entered bidding over several new stores owned by the Muslim *waqf* here are asking for reductions in rent which in some cases is as high as JD3600 per annum, double the Jenin average.

Shops in East Jerusalem were shut November 7 as merchants struck in protest at the fighting between Palestinians in north Lebanon/ ST photo

TEACHERS DETAINED

JERUSALEM — A woman teacher from Bethany was detained, October 31, by the Israeli military following a surprise raid.

Nimeh Khawaja, a teacher at Banaat al-Izarieh School, was taken in after a midnight raid at her father's house. Khitam Khashash, from Deir Dibwan, a teacher at Ram Secondary School, was detained in a similar manner, October 26.

GRENADE ATTACK IN KHAN YUNIS

KHAN YUNIS — A hand grenade was thrown, November 1, at Israeli police in Khan Yunis but did not explode, Israel Radio said.

Community Colleges: Filling a Need or Administrative Pockets?

Community colleges in the West Bank are a growth industry for both educators and businesspeople. To find out more about this new phenomenon, *Al Fajr's* Daoud Kuttab spoke to operators, teachers and students.

Every summer about 15,000 high school students who have finished the 12th grade, sit for the *tawjihi* matriculation examination. The results of the 1983 exam showed that about 60 percent of those who took the *tawjihi* reached the 50 percent passing grade.

But out of the 8000 or so *tawjihi* graduates, only 3000 are absorbed into the three Palestinian local institutes of higher education — the universities of Bir Zeit, Al-Najah, and Bethlehem — plus the Islamic universities in Jerusalem and Hebron and the Hebron Polytechnic. Another 1500 high school graduates are absorbed in the local UNRWA-run vocational schools and teachers colleges.

Traditionally students qualified to continue academic studies but unable to enter local universities or colleges have gone abroad to take up places in Egyptian, Syrian, Lebanese, Iraqi and Jordanian universities. Others stayed home and took correspondence courses. The Beirut Arab University ran its yearly exams for extenal students in Amman. This dependence on the outside left students vulnerable to pressure, and in recent years the screws have started being tightened.

Pressure came first from Egypt. In the aftermath of the signing of the Camp David accords between Israel, Egypt and the US, and because of the Palestinian population's refusal to support it, Anwar Sadat closed the doors of Egyptian universities. Palestinians — particularly from the Gaza Strip — whose main avenue to higher education was Egypt, found themselves stuck at home or working in Israeli factories and building sites. The shock was compounded by an Egyptian decision to stop graduation from schools teaching their curriculum putting an additional 5000 students who had completed high school education in the hunt for advanced courses.

West Bank universities absorbed some of these students, the local Islamic University was expanded (despite persistent Israeli attempts to maintain its status as a religious school) and students with affluent parents headed for East and West Europe and the US.

West Bank

In the West Bank the pressure on the three main universities was increasing. A deteriorating regional political situation closed Syrian, Iraqi and then Lebanese universities to West Bank students, who found themselves gradually restricted to Jordanian and non-Arab foreign universities.

In this atmosphere, interest in starting more local institutes of higher education received greater attention in the late '70s. The Arab colleges of nursing which opened in al-Bireh and Abu Dis received full loads of students. But still the majority of graduates not going to local universities were heading outside the West Bank, mainly to Jordan.

Commercial Institutes

In Jordan itself, a parallel phenomenon was taking place. The Hashemite government gave free rein to individuals to start higher education centres, and dozens of junior colleges were being started. Palestinian students from the West Bank who could not get in at local schools or even the two Jordanian universities — Jordan and Yarmouk — found these colleges the only alternative. Junior colleges' subjects ranged from secretarial courses to accounting and computer programming, but there was little academic control, and many graduates were unable to function in the jobs their degrees qualified them for.

In the early '80s the Jordanian education ministry finally responded to complaints of students and parents and stepped in and set up strict guidelines for these commercial establishments. The education ministry attempted to formalise and control the whole junior college structure. Official community college experts set books and teaching material for the topics taught and also enforced a matriculation examination, which became known as the 'comprehensive exam'. All students had to sit for this exam in order to get their certificates to graudate and enter the various semi-professional career fields or to continue their studies.

The Jordanian education ministry, which is academically and professionally responsible for the West Bank education department, wanted to enforce the new exam here too but faced strong opposition. By the end of the '82-'83 academic year, the West Bank education department, under strong pressure from students and teachers alike, has still not managed to force the exam onto local students.

The Turning Point

The situation of West Bank and Gaza higher education changed dramatically during 1983.

Shortly after the breakdown in the Palestinian-Jordanian talks on the Reagan Plan, last April, and not long after the Jordanian statement, April 10, "washing its hands" of the Palestinian problem, West Bank and Gaza students started feeling the crunch.

The only crossing points between the west and east banks of the Jordan River started to be tightly controlled. Students aged 16-25 were barred from entering Jordanian territory. Only those with work permits in Arab countries were permitted through to Jordan.

Rumours that West Bankers already studying at Jordanian universities would also be restricted added to the fears of many students and parents. Applications to Palestinian universities took another up-turn. The finite number of places was filled and the rest found themselves in a void. Some 4000 West Bank students who passed the Jordanian education ministry's *tawjihi* found themselves without any educational haven.

Necessity, Mother of Invention

Against this background it is not difficult to describe what happened between late April 1983 and the beginning of the '83-'84 academic year.

On the one hand there was a large number of high school graduates in want of any sort of higher education and willing to pay for the privilege. This was coupled with a large number of unemployed university graduates; the Jordanian education ministry's community college curriculum was prepared and ready for use by qualified teachers.

All that is needed to complete the scenario is a businessperson able to obtain a license from the Israeli authorities and with contacts in the Jordanian government and you have yourself a West Bank community college.

What was not as necessary was a proper building, an academic programme or a properly qualified and trained staff. Nor would future graduates be trained with the local job market in mind. It was not even necessary to get the blessing of the West Bank Council of Higher Education. All that was needed was an academic board made up of well-respected academic figures and ads in the local press inviting students to apply.

Administrative offices of the Modern Community College in al-Bireh. "All that was needed was an academic board made up of well-respected academic figures and ads in the local press inviting students to apply/ ST photo

Modern Community College

The privilege of starting the community college spree fell to Hebron lawyer Hussein Shayukhi. He obtained a license from the Israeli authorities and an 'OK' from the Jordanians and started to advertise his Ramallah-based Modern Community College. The ads said the MCC would carry all courses in the Jordanian community college curriculum. High school graduates were invited to apply to study journalism, accounting, computer studies, engineering, drawing, teaching of the liberal arts, secretarial skills and nursing.

Potential students were asked to pay JD5 for an application form, and registration on being accepted was JD200. Within a few days the MCC's make-shift offices were flooded with thousands of applications from high school graduates with passing grades but not good enough for a university place. Another reason given by local academics to explain the phenomenon was the fact that Dr Abd al-Latif Barghuti was advertised as the dean of the new college.

The example of MCC was quickly followed by others who wanted to compete for the market. Three colleges sprouted in Nablus and one each in Jerusalem and Ramallah. A number of individuals are attempting to get licenses for other areas.

At the time of writing, the West Bank Council of Higher Education had not coordinated with, approved or denounced the various community colleges that have been established. Discussions of the pros and cons of the quickly established community colleges are taking place at various levels, but no one has come out with a clear position, according to knowledgeable sources.

While supporters argue that the colleges provide a badly needed haven for students and unemployed college graduates, opponents see in the colleges a clear exploitation of the vulnerable high school students and at best a means of forcing the comprehensive exam on the West Bank junior colleges. Public debates on the issue have been organised in Jerusalem and al-Bireh. An argument heard during them was that one cannot establish community colleges on such a weak educational and organisational basis. One proposed site for a community college, critics pointed out, does not have a single toilet. Teaching staff members were reportedly hired at random or by nepotism. Opponents declare that the power given to controversial license owners will guarantee that national interests are not given priority.

Opponents continue that at best concerned parents will demand that the previously rejected comprehensive exam will be welcomed so as to avoid improper education by money-hungry businesspeople. The exam is rejected by nationalists in the West Bank because it will perforce bring Israeli-supervised personnel into higher education policy-making. Already applicants at the Jerusalem Ibrahimiyeh College have been forced to sign a pledge to take the comprehensive exam.

Supporters of the community college phenomenon argue that despite the lack of proper organisation and qualified staff, the presence of these colleges are of national benefit and that in time things will improve.

Both opponents and supporters, however, agree that a strict and coordinated stand by the West Bank Council of Higher Education is badly needed at this time. Everyone is looking to the newly elected CHE executive to take a firm stand on the colleges.

Another area of agreement is that in order for these colleges to succeed, a coordinated programme must be adhered to so as to absorb graduates into the local economy. Avoiding duplication and coordinating with the industrial, professional and agricultural sectors in the West Bank and Gaza are of immediate importance, experts say.

For the time being, license-owners for the newly established community colleges are counting their cash and hoping that within the two years it takes for students to graduate, things will work themselves out.